VISION COMICS
3
JAN 1997
$2.50 US
WALTER KITTY IN...
The Hollow Earth
THE HOLLOW EARTH ISSN 1084-1520 $2.50 US / $3.25 CANADA
EWS 96

20/20

WHAT'S NEW AND NEWS

With the Bankruptcy of Marvel, the comics industry is in a tizzy! It's very difficult for small press titles such as this one to stay afloat, especially in the wake of such large hits as we took in our Jan. orders, which were "somewhat less than happy", to turn a phrase. As a result, we are slowing our title production schedules on a couple of books, including The Hollow Earth, Savage Funnies and others to a quarterly or even semi-annual basis, while we wait and see what the comic market does.

Vision is making a big push into the book and magazine market, with a line of new anthropomorphic novels written in a shared world created by Lyn Abbey, the creator of Thieves World, and the Savage World of GOR, a full color magazine for international distribution, based on the 27 novels of GOR by John Norman.

Vision is also making inroads into the Animation industry with an innovative series of science-fiction show proposals for the 1998 television season.

We welcome the newest addition to our ranks, Kathryn Bolinger, a former disciple of Barry Windsor-Smith. Her first Vision work can be seen in the wonderful digital coloring in Issue #1 of BEATRIX, which is available now, in January.

CONVENTION SCHEDULE

We've done the big comic conventions before; primarily to boost awareness of the company. It's our experience that this doesn't really help us, no matter how large our displays are. The reason for this is that anthropomorphics, which our lines primarily consist of, is a limited market. And those that do like it seek it out -- so what's the benefit of attending the major comic conventions? None.

However, some of the upcoming cons that focus on anthropomorphics are growing and look to be good ones. A new convention, just starting up, is listed below. We've heard good things about it, and encourage folks to attend. If you're into anthropomorphics, this looks to be a lot of fun.

ALBANY ANTHROCON
HELD JULY 3-6, 1997,
IN ALBANY, NEW YORK

FOR MORE INFO, WRITE TO:

Albany Anthrocon
Thornwood Enterpritses
Post Office Box 1563
Troy NY 12182-1563

EMAIL: aac@wizvax.net
WWW: http://www.wizvax.net/aac

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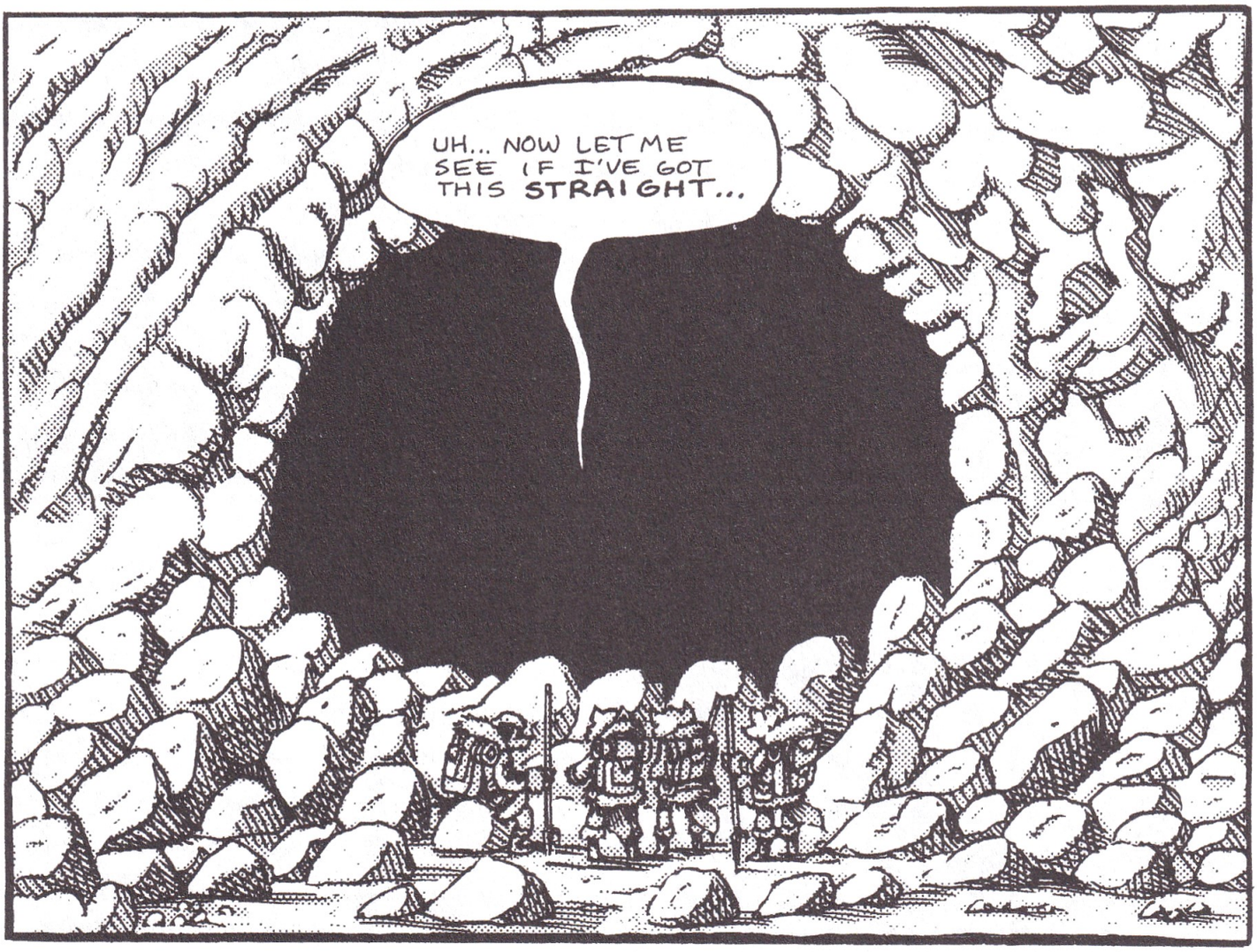
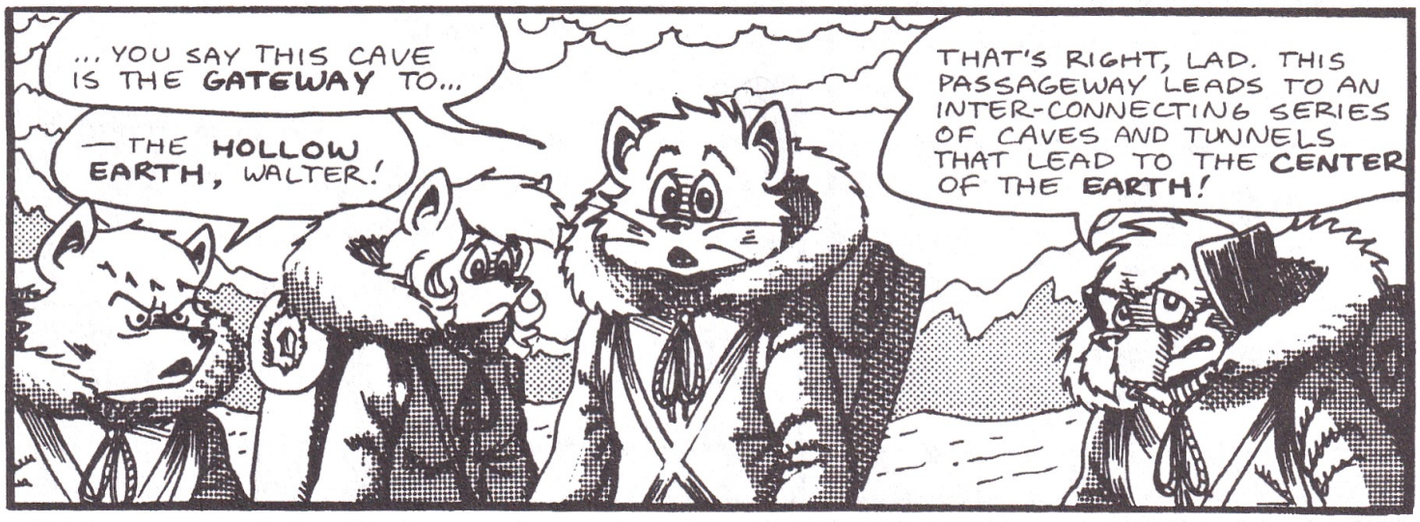
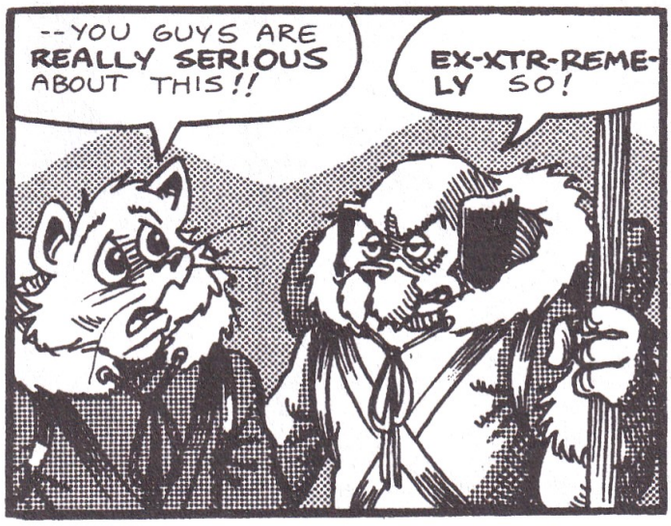
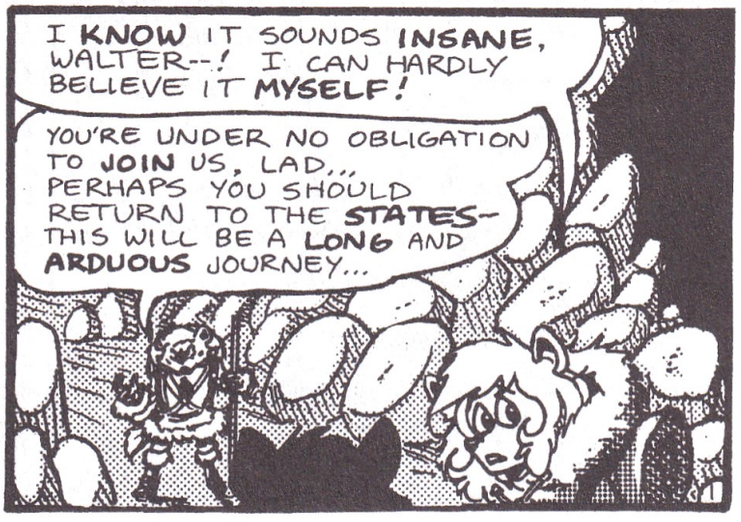
PART THREE: "FOLLOW THE LEADER"









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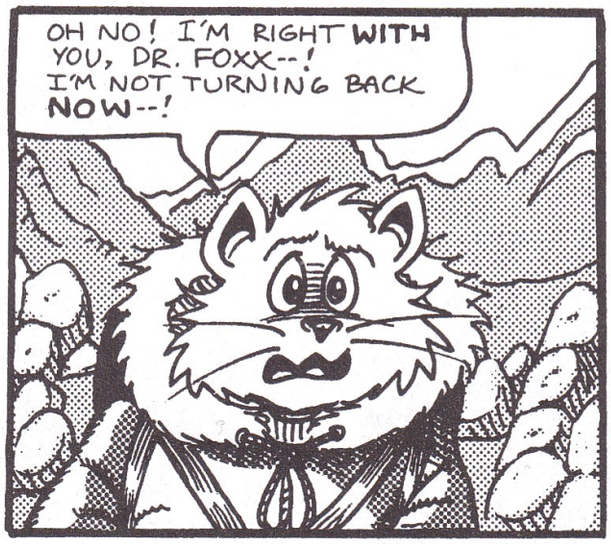
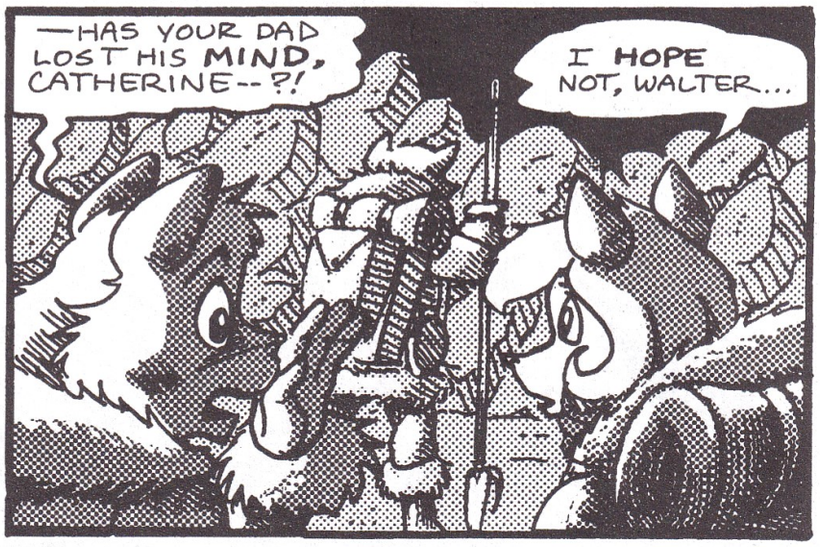
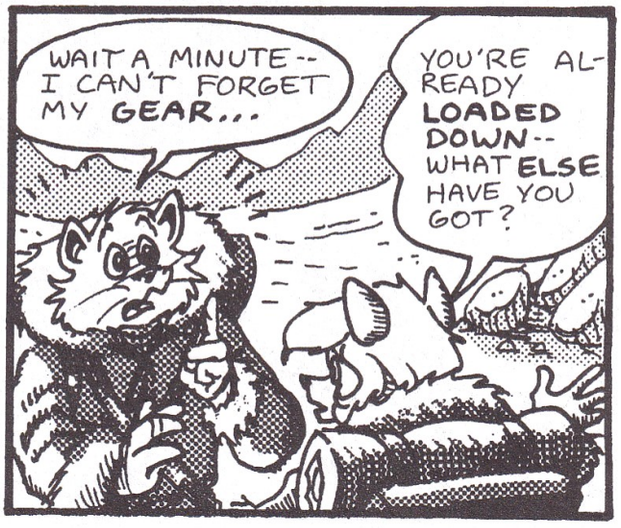
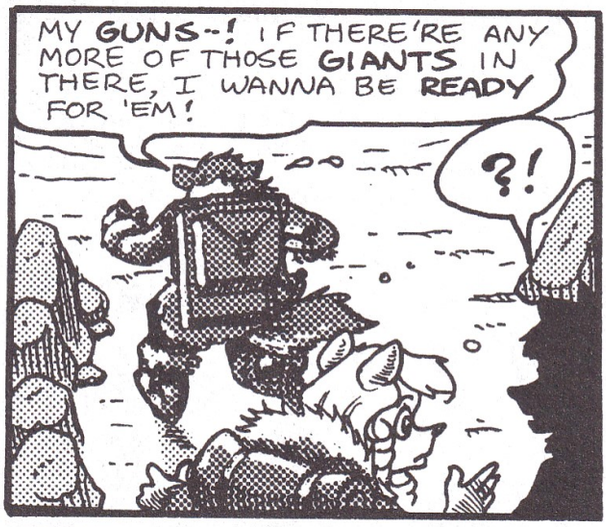
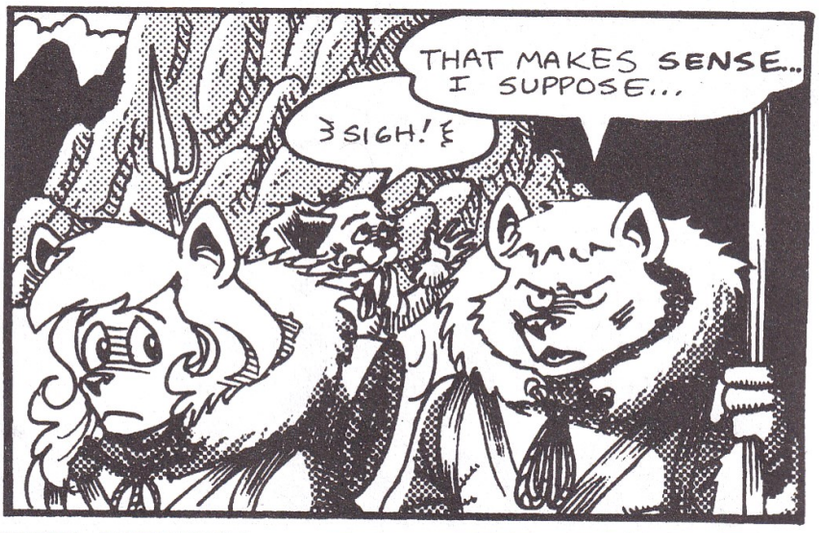

OH NO! I'M RIGHT WITH YOU, DR. FOXX--! I'M NOT TURNING BACK NOW--!


—HAS YOUR DAD LOST HIS MIND, CATHERINE--?!
I HOPE NOT, WALTER...

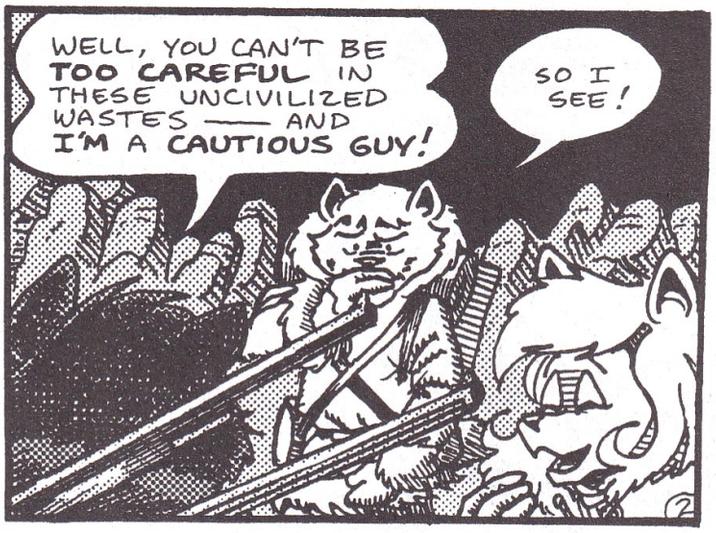
IF YOU'RE ALL FINISHED JABBERING, I'D LIKE TO PROCEED WITH OUR JOURNEY-- THAT IS, IF WE'VE DECIDED TO CONTINUE...

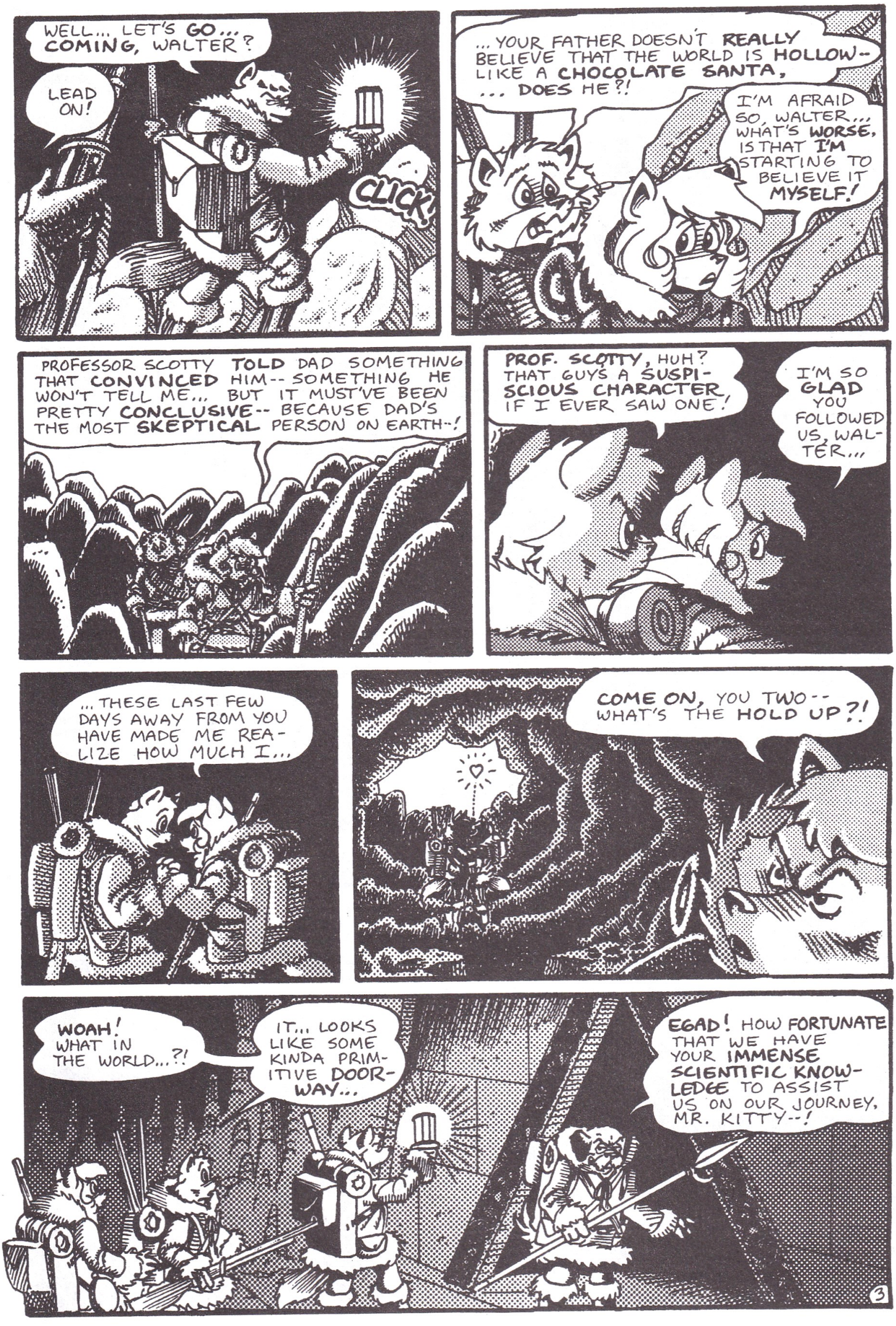

WAIT A MINUTE-- I CAN'T FORGET MY GEAR...
YOU'RE ALREADY LOADED DOWN-- WHAT ELSE HAVE YOU GOT?


MY GUNS--! IF THERE'RE ANY MORE OF THOSE GIANTS IN THERE, I WANNA BE READY FOR 'EM!
?!


THAT MAKES SENSE... I SUPPOSE...
SIGH!

NOW I'M READY!
—NO USE BRINGING THE BAZOOKA- I ONLY HAD ONE SHELL FOR IT!
GOOD LORD!

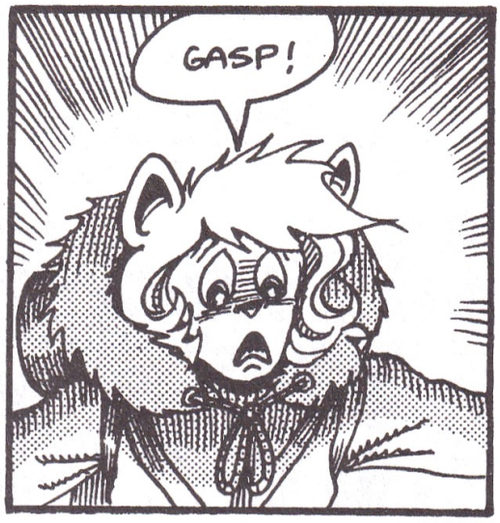

WELL, YOU CAN'T BE TOO CAREFUL IN THESE UNCIVILIZED WASTES — AND I'M A CAUTIOUS GUY!
SO I SEE!

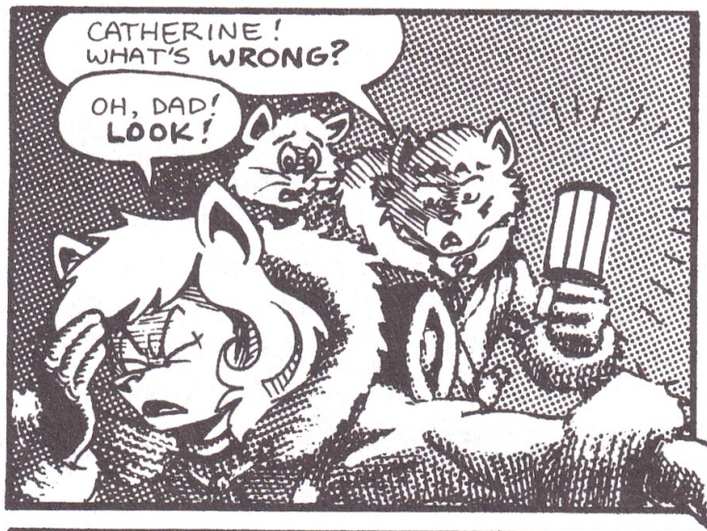

WELL... LET'S GO... COMING, WALTER?
LEAD ON!
CLICK!
... YOUR FATHER DOESN'T REALLY BELIEVE THAT THE WORLD IS HOLLOW-- LIKE A CHOCOLATE SANTA, ... DOES HE?!
I'M AFRAID SO, WALTER... WHAT'S WORSE, IS THAT I'M STARTING TO BELIEVE IT MYSELF!
PROFESSOR SCOTTY TOLD DAD SOMETHING THAT CONVINCED HIM-- SOMETHING HE WON'T TELL ME... BUT IT MUST'VE BEEN PRETTY CONCLUSIVE-- BECAUSE DAD'S THE MOST SKEPTICAL PERSON ON EARTH--!
PROF. SCOTTY, HUH? THAT GUYS A SUSPI-SCIOUS CHARACTER, IF I EVER SAW ONE!
I'M SO GLAD YOU FOLLOWED US, WAL-TER...
... THESE LAST FEW DAYS AWAY FROM YOU HAVE MADE ME REA-LIZE HOW MUCH I...
COME ON, YOU TWO-- WHAT'S THE HOLD UP?!
WOAH! WHAT IN THE WORLD...?!
IT... LOOKS LIKE SOME KINDA PRIM-ITIVE DOOR-WAY...
EGAD! HOW FORTUNATE THAT WE HAVE YOUR IMMENSE SCIENTIFIC KNOW-LEDGE TO ASSIST US ON OUR JOURNEY, MR. KITTY--!

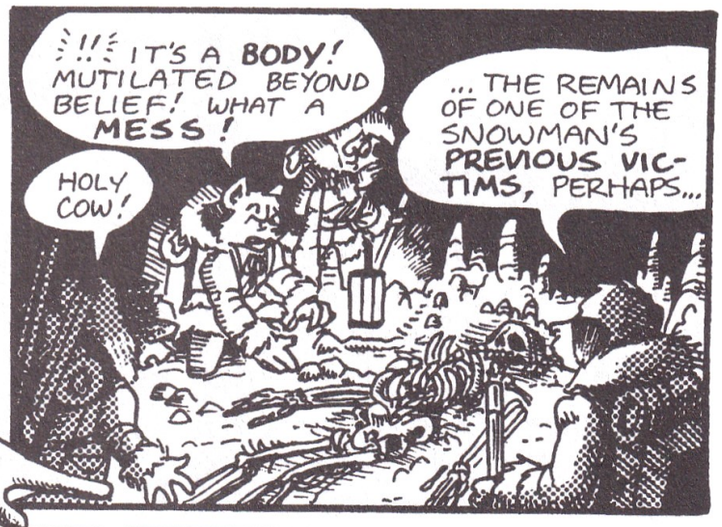
NO NEED TO BE SO SARCASTIC, PROFESSOR! I'LL BE THE FIRST TO ADMIT I'M NO BRAINIAC-- BUT I'M NOT A TOTAL MORON EITHER! WHO KNOWS? I MAY BE USEFUL ... LIKE I WAS WITH THE SNOW GIANT BACK THERE...*
* LAST ISSUE!

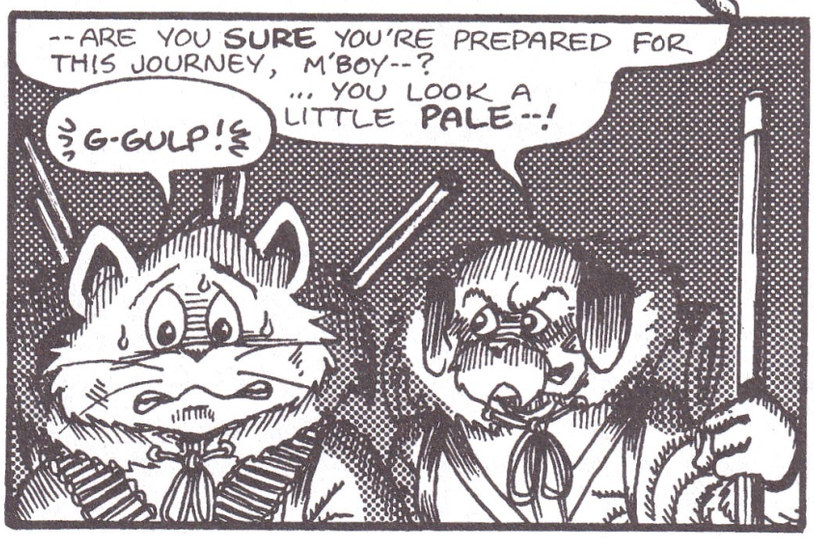
—AND DON'T THINK I AM UNNAPPRECIATIVE, MR. KITTY--! BUT THIS IS A SERIOUS EXPEDITION -- NOT A HOLIDAY'S LARK! --I JUST DON'T THINK YOU KNOW WHAT YOU'RE GETTING INTO!

WELL, I'LL WORRY ABOUT THAT, OKAY? I'M AFRAID YOU'RE STUCK WITH ME!
THAT'S TELLING HIM, WALTER!


GASP!


CATHERINE! WHAT'S WRONG?
OH, DAD! LOOK!


!!! IT'S A BODY! MUTILATED BEYOND BELIEF! WHAT A MESS!
HOLY COW!
... THE REMAINS OF ONE OF THE SNOWMAN'S PREVIOUS VICTIMS, PERHAPS...


--ARE YOU SURE YOU'RE PREPARED FOR THIS JOURNEY, M'BOY--?
... YOU LOOK A LITTLE PALE--!
G-GULP!

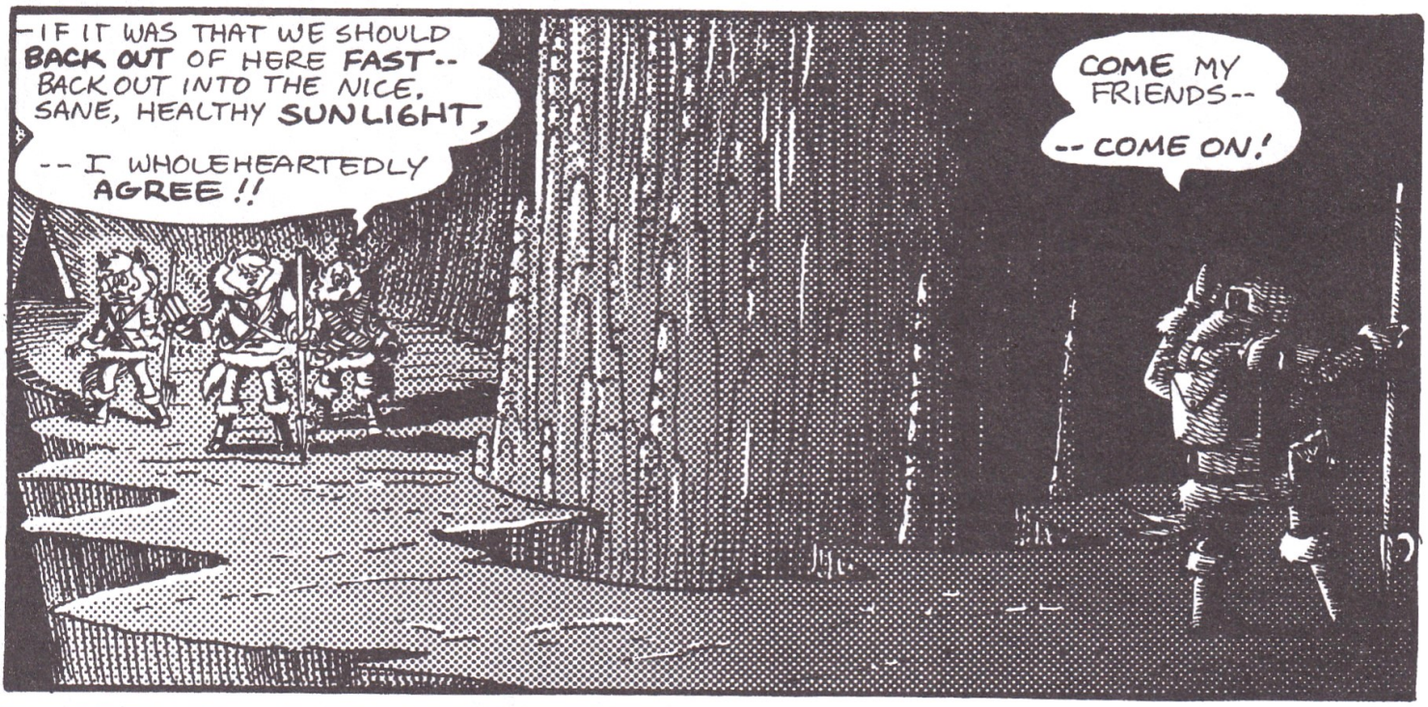
WELL... WHAT'S AROUND THIS CORNER WILL MAKE YOU FORGET THAT POOR FELLOW--
... WHOEVER HE WAS...!

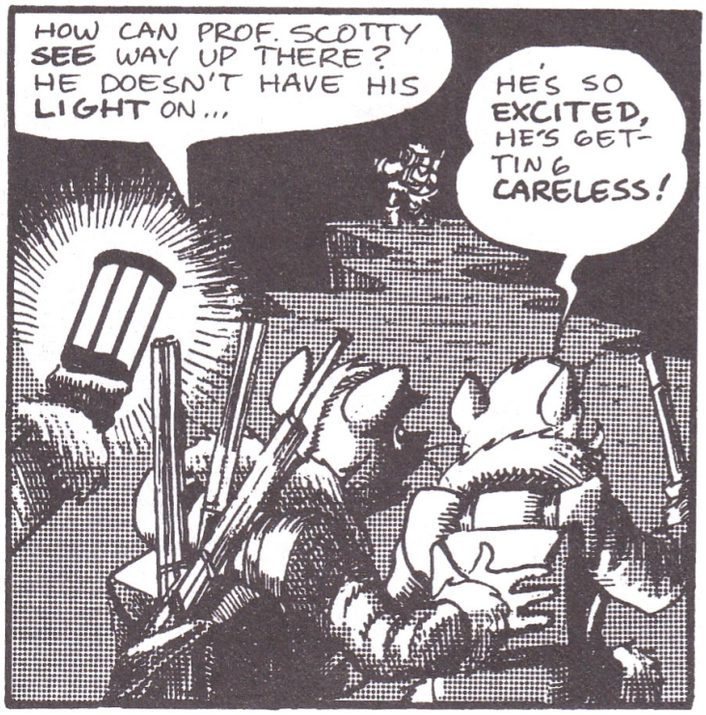
PROFESSOR-- WAIT--! DIDN'T YOU TELL ME--?
GREAT SCOTT!
SEE?! SEE?! THE TRAIL IS CLEAR!
--A VIRTUAL PATH-WAY TO THE EARTH'S CORE--!
IMAGINE THE WONDERS THAT AWAIT US!
5

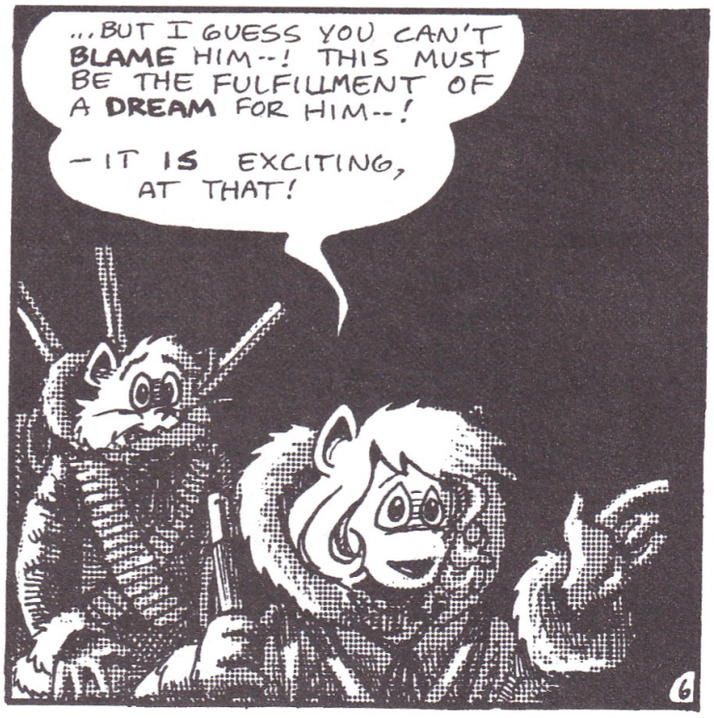
... AMAZING--!
LISTEN TO THOSE ECHOES --!

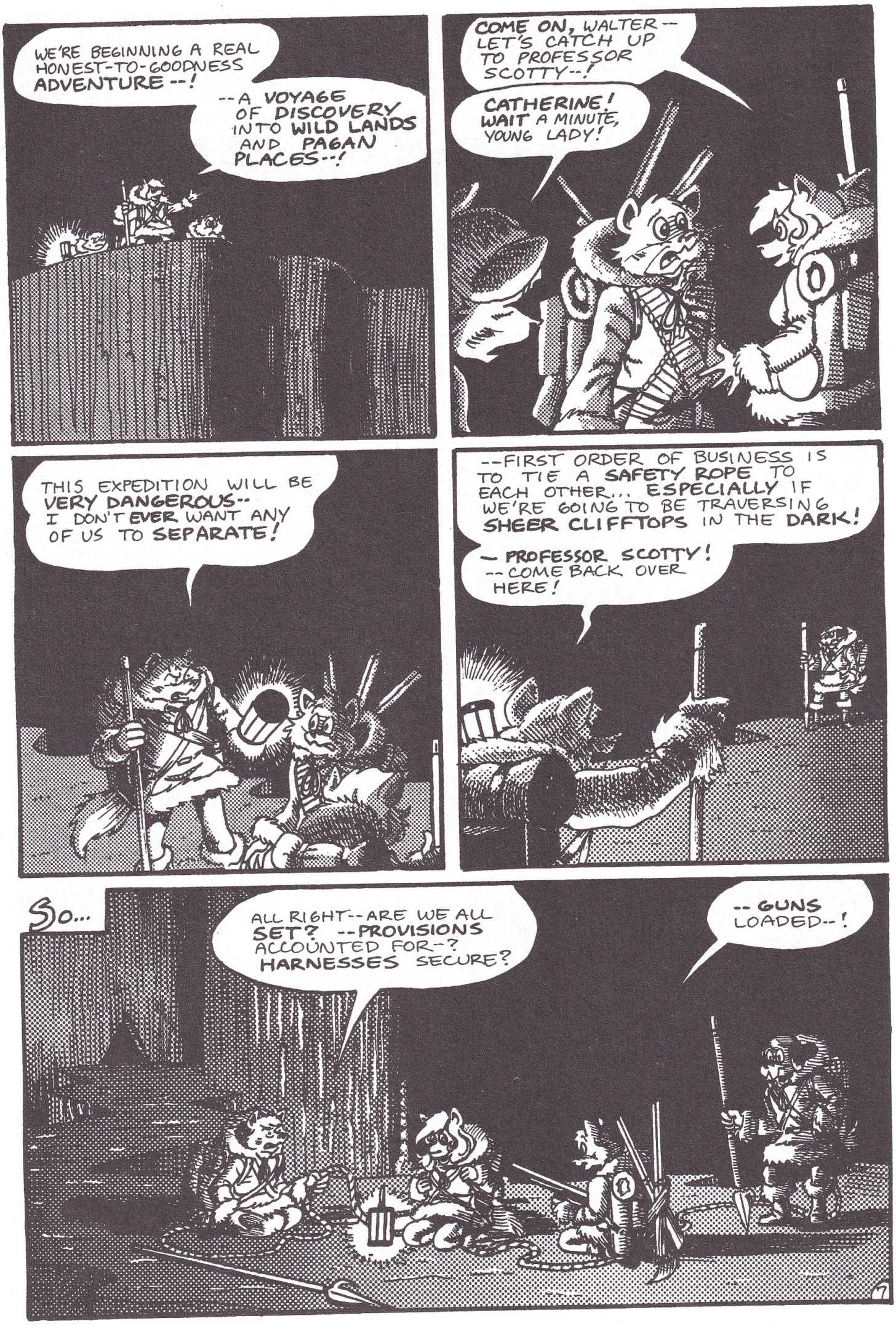
GUYS--! MAYBE THIS IS A MIS-TAKE--! THIS PLACE IS SPOOKY--!
--WHAT?
-- WHAT WAS IT YOU STARTED TO SAY A SEC-OND AGO, DAD--?

I... UH... I FORGOT WHAT I WAS GOING TO SAY...


-IF IT WAS THAT WE SHOULD BACK OUT OF HERE FAST-- BACK OUT INTO THE NICE, SANE, HEALTHY SUNLIGHT,
-- I WHOLEHEARTEDLY AGREE!!
COME MY FRIENDS--
-- COME ON!

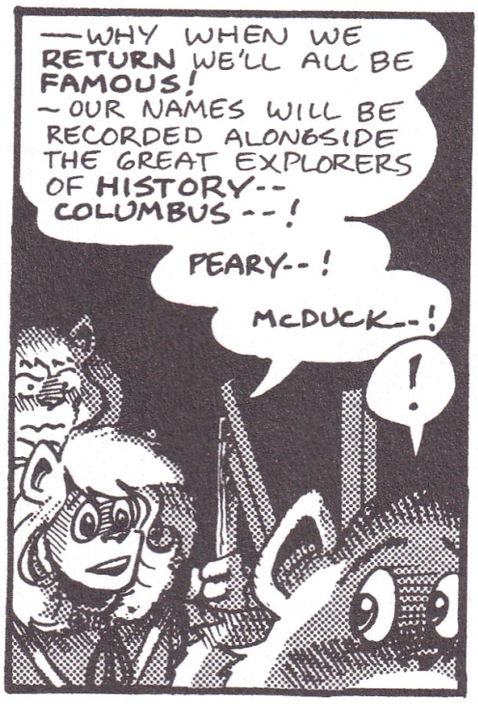

HOW CAN PROF. SCOTTY SEE WAY UP THERE? HE DOESN'T HAVE HIS LIGHT ON...
HE'S SO EXCITED, HE'S GET-TING CARELESS!


...BUT I GUESS YOU CAN'T BLAME HIM--! THIS MUST BE THE FULFILLMENT OF A DREAM FOR HIM--!
-IT IS EXCITING, AT THAT!


WE'RE BEGINNING A REAL HONEST-TO-GOODNESS ADVENTURE --!
--A VOYAGE OF DISCOVERY INTO WILD LANDS AND PAGAN PLACES--!
COME ON, WALTER -- LET'S CATCH UP TO PROFESSOR SCOTTY--!
CATHERINE! WAIT A MINUTE, YOUNG LADY!
THIS EXPEDITION WILL BE VERY DANGEROUS-- I DON'T EVER WANT ANY OF US TO SEPARATE!
--FIRST ORDER OF BUSINESS IS TO TIE A SAFETY ROPE TO EACH OTHER... ESPECIALLY IF WE'RE GOING TO BE TRAVERSING SHEER CLIFFTOPS IN THE DARK!
— PROFESSOR SCOTTY! --COME BACK OVER HERE!
SO...
ALL RIGHT--ARE WE ALL SET? --PROVISIONS ACCOUNTED FOR--? HARNESSES SECURE?
-- GUNS LOADED--!
7

--SINCE YOU'RE SO ANXIOUS, PROFESSOR, WHY DON'T YOU LEAD THE WAY?
—MY PLEASURE!

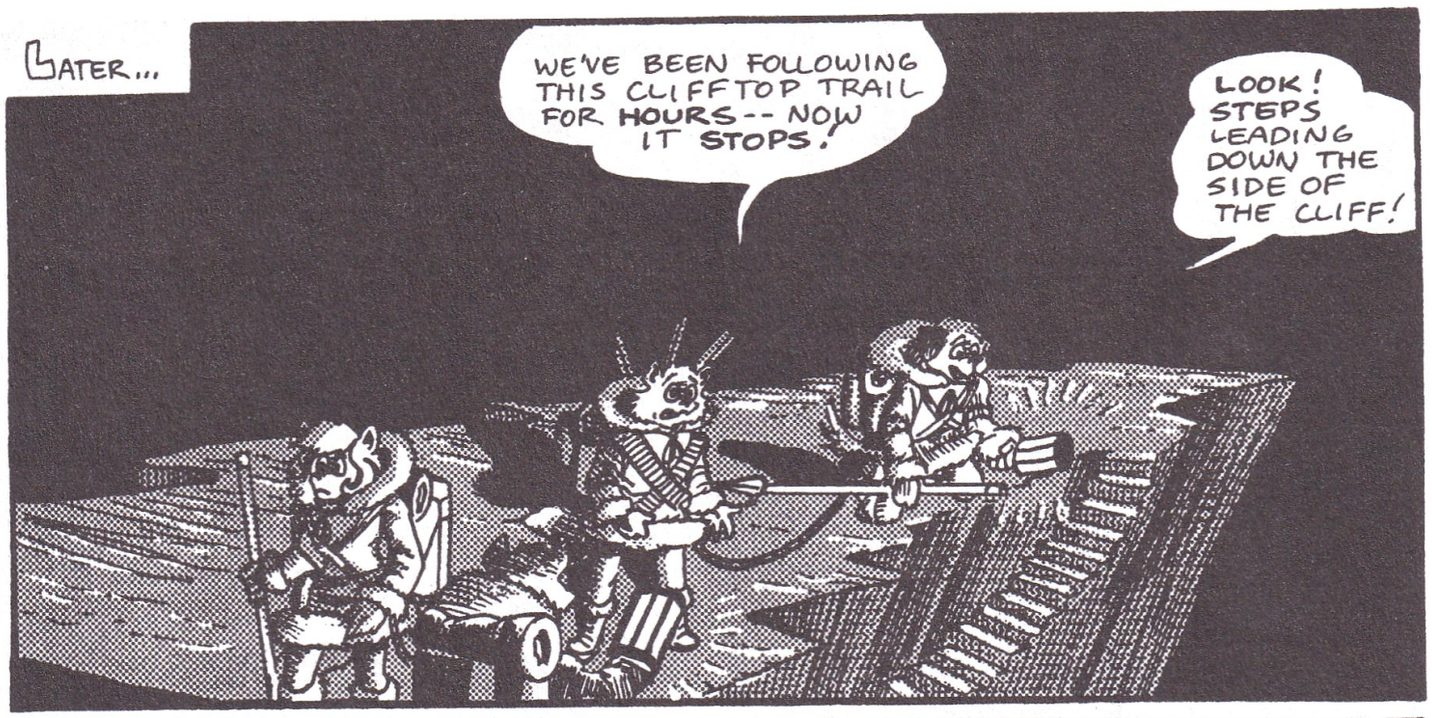
THIS IS THE BEGINNING OF A MOMENTOUS CHAPTER IN HISTORY! THE FIRST EXPEDITION BY MODERN SCIENCE INTO THE VERY HEART OF THE EARTH!
CLICK!

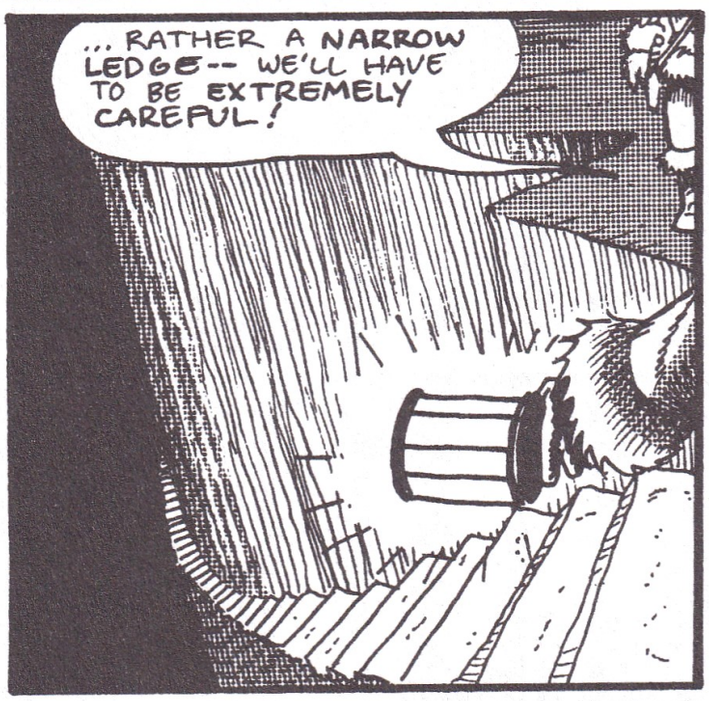

—WHY WHEN WE RETURN WE'LL ALL BE FAMOUS! ~OUR NAMES WILL BE RECORDED ALONGSIDE THE GREAT EXPLORERS OF HISTORY-- COLUMBUS--!
PEARY--!
McDUCK--!
!

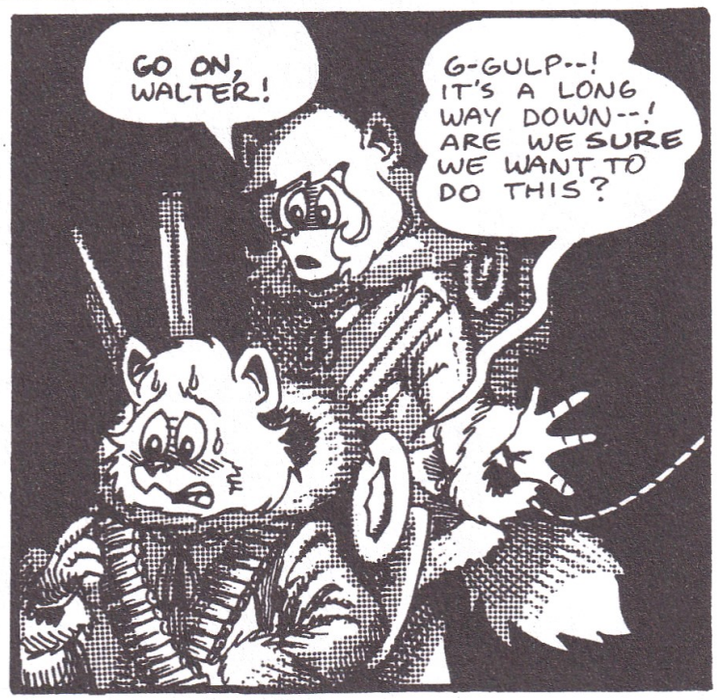
FAMOUS, HUH? I GUESS THAT WOULDN'T BE TOO HARD TO TAKE!
OO! MY HERO!
WHAT A CAT! ♡♡
Walter Kitty Explorer
GETTING INTO THE SPIRIT, MR. KITTY?

—ACTUALLY, I'M PRAYING REALLY HARD THAT THIS CAVE'LL END BEFORE LONG--!
--IT JUST CAN'T GO ALL THE WAY TO THE EARTH'S CORE--
—CAN IT?!

--IF IT DOES...
WHAT HORRIBLE DANGERS AWAIT US--?!


LATER...
WE'VE BEEN FOLLOWING THIS CLIFFTOP TRAIL FOR HOURS -- NOW IT STOPS!
LOOK! STEPS LEADING DOWN THE SIDE OF THE CLIFF!

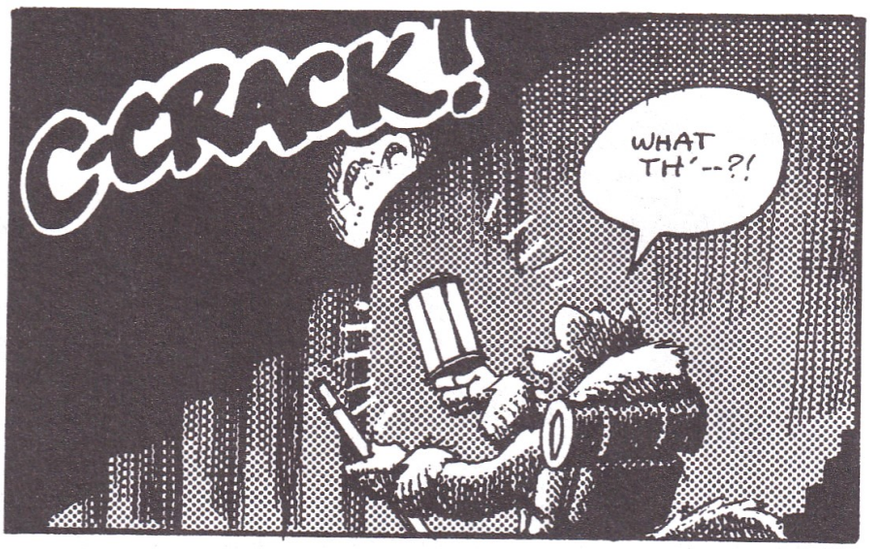

... RATHER A NARROW LEDGE -- WE'LL HAVE TO BE EXTREMELY CAREFUL!


GO ON, WALTER!
G-GULP--! IT'S A LONG WAY DOWN--! ARE WE SURE WE WANT TO DO THIS?

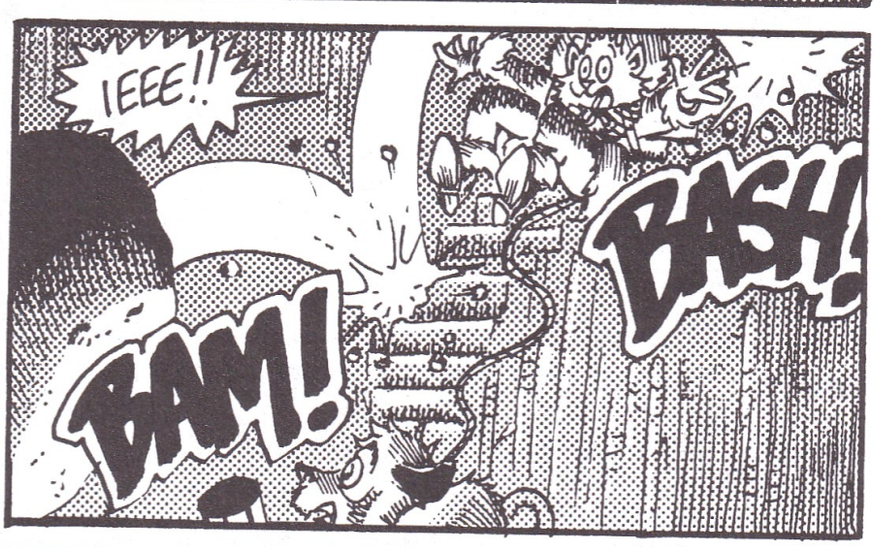
WALTER! OPEN YOUR EYES!! THAT'S DANGEROUS!!
OKAY! OKAY!!
INCH INCH INCH

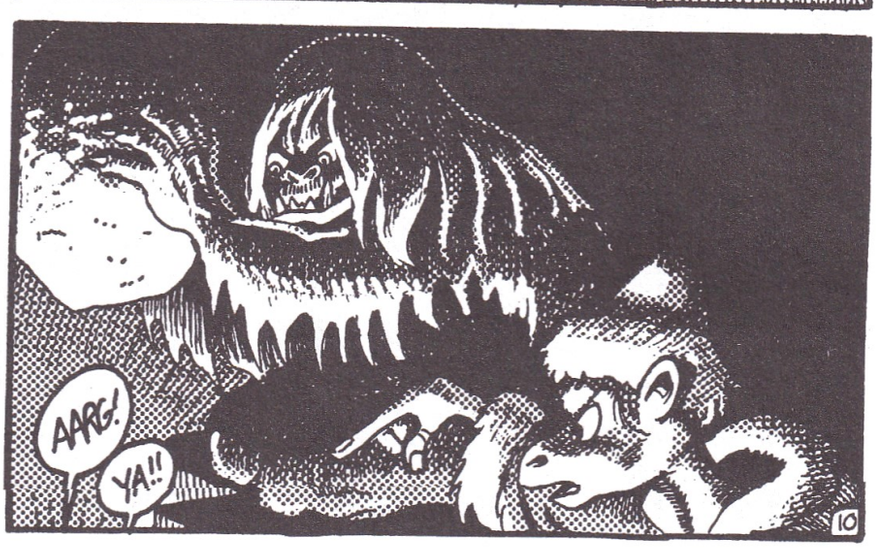
BUT THAT ABYSS -- IT'S SO... SO AWESOME!
WELL... KEEP YOUR EYES OPEN SO YOU DON'T FALL IN IT!

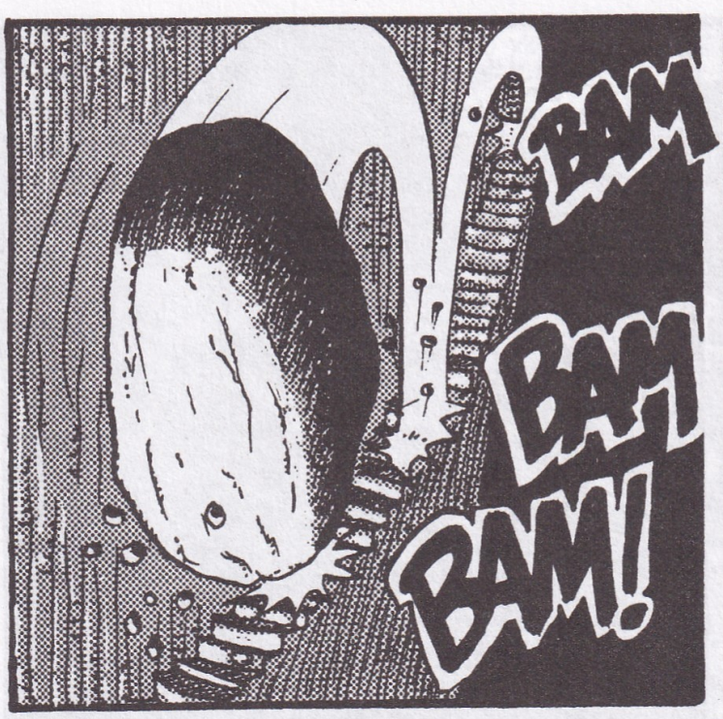
EASY, WALTER, EASY...
EEEEEEE!
I CAN'T HELP IT--! I'VE GOT A NERVOUS FEAR OF HEIGHTS !!
Poof!

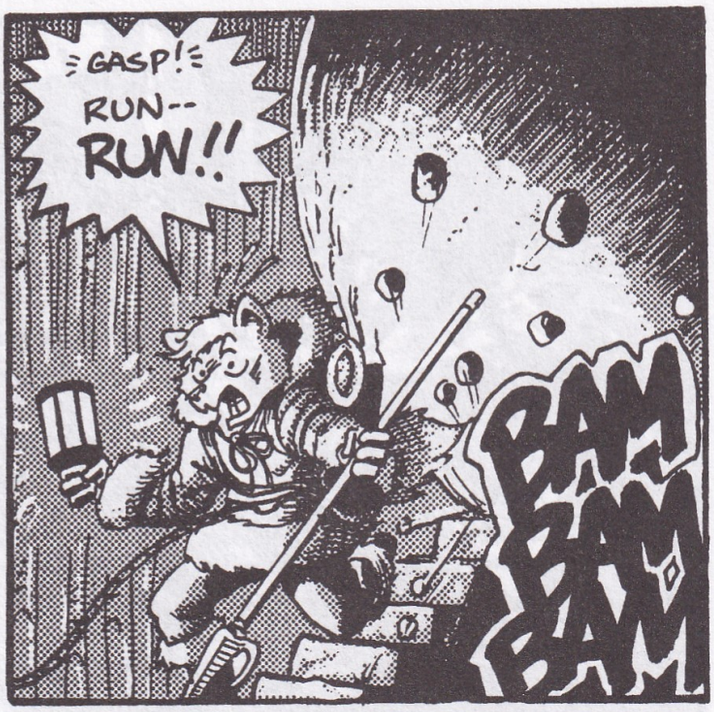

CCRACK!
WHAT TH'--?!

OH MY GOD--! LOOK OUT--!!


IEEE!!
BAM!
BASH!


AARG!
YA!!


BAM
BAM
BAM!

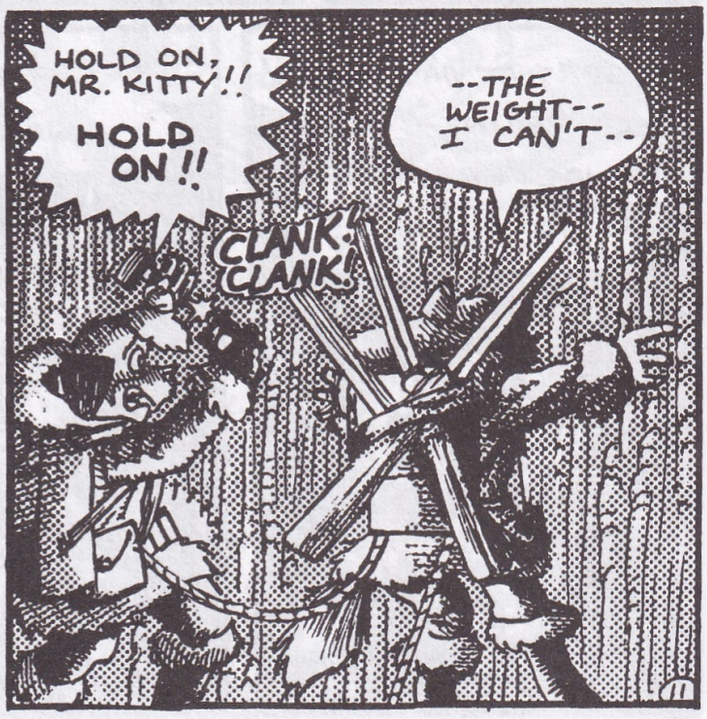

GASP!
RUN--
RUN!!
BAM
BAM
BAM

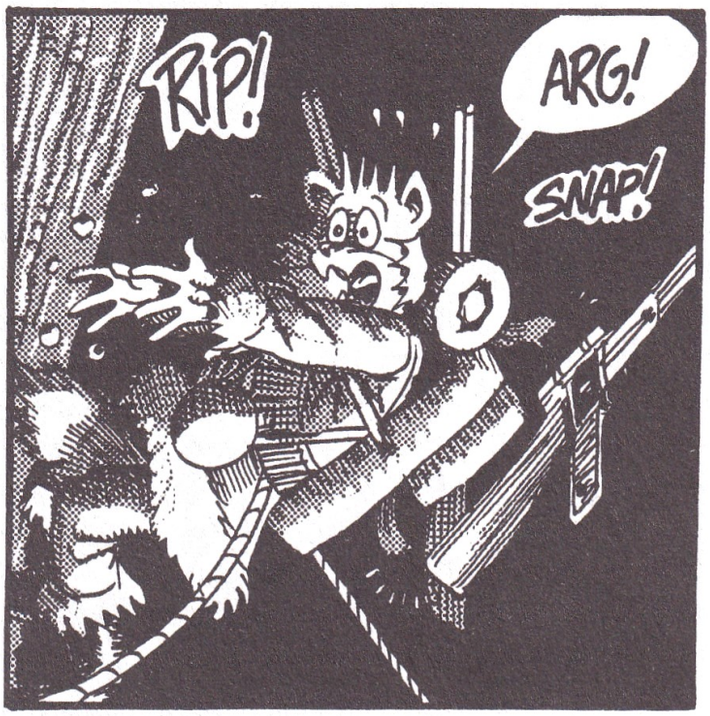
OH!
THOP!

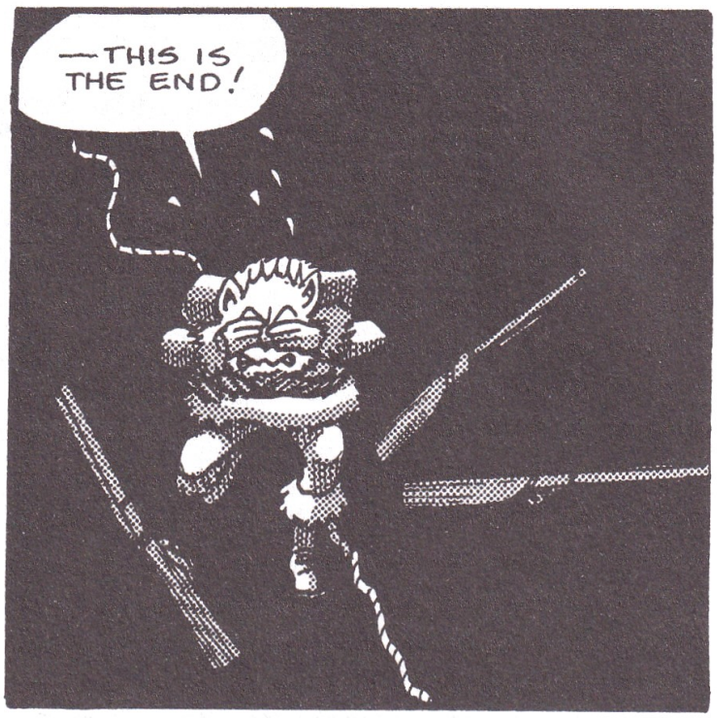
CATHERINE!!
--NO!

AGH!
YANK!

OH NO!!
WHOOSH!

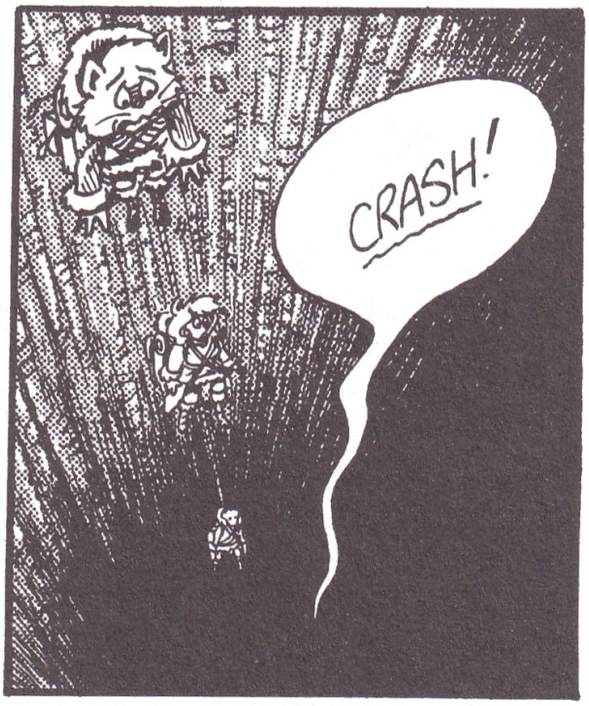

HOLD ON, MR. KITTY!!
HOLD ON!!
--THE WEIGHT-- I CAN'T--
CLANK! CLANK!


RIP!
ARG!
SNAP!


—THIS IS THE END!

YANK!
-AK!

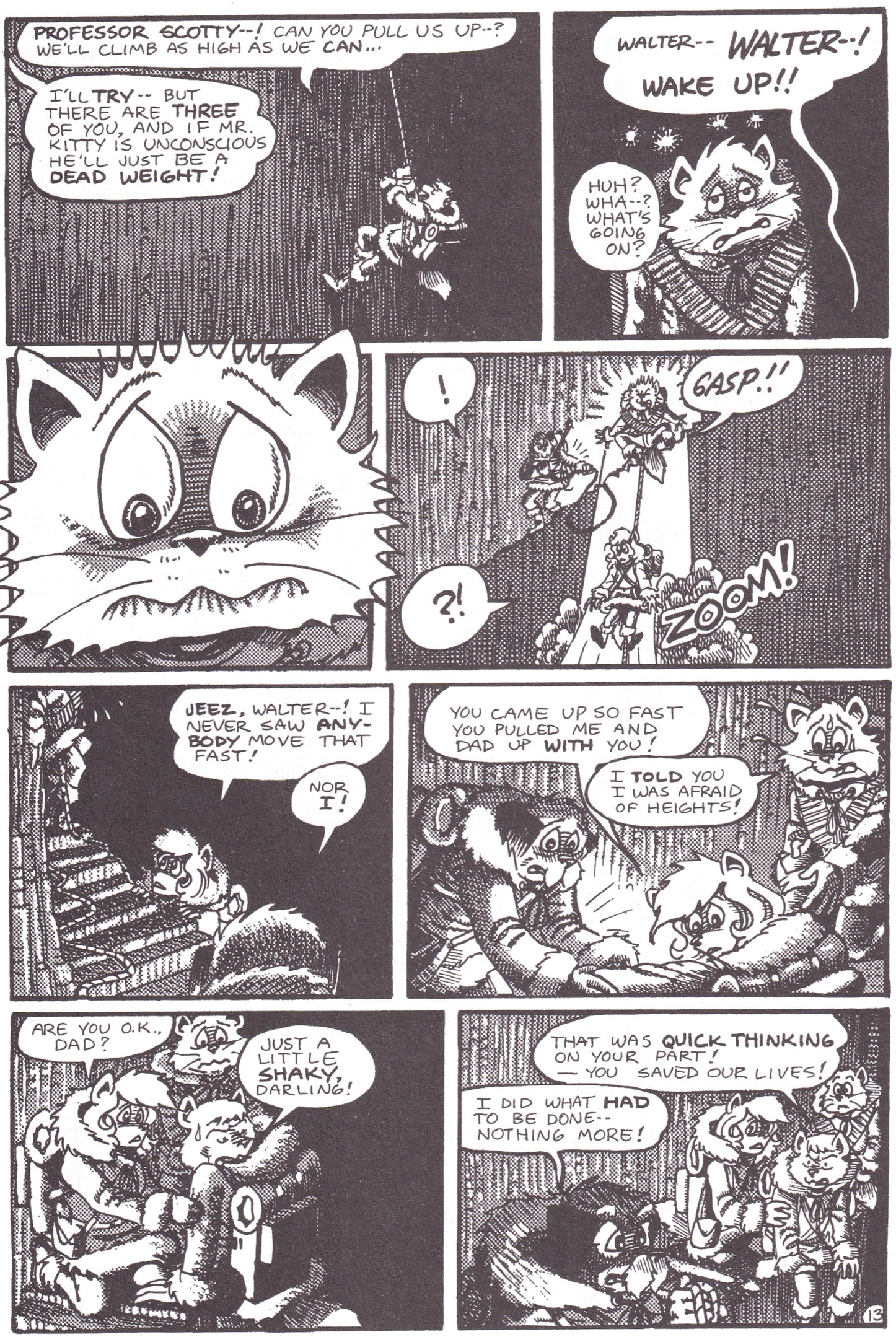
WHEW!

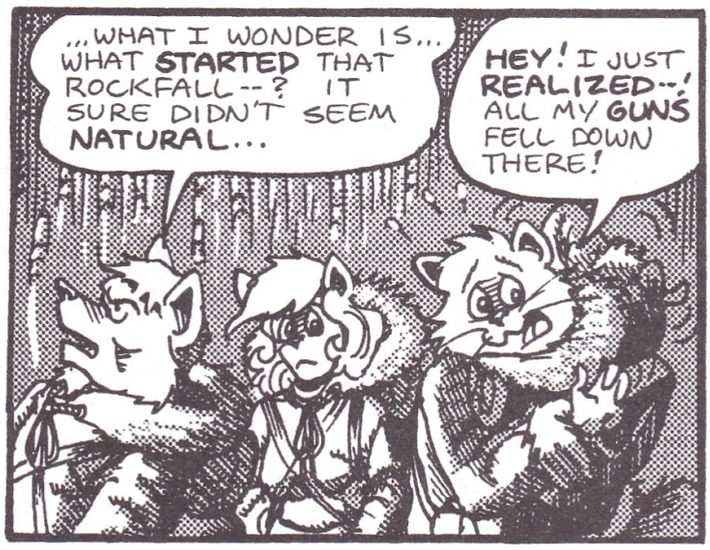

CRASH!

GASP! THAT WAS CLOSE!
--CATHERINE--!
--WALTER--!
ARE YOU ALRIGHT--?!

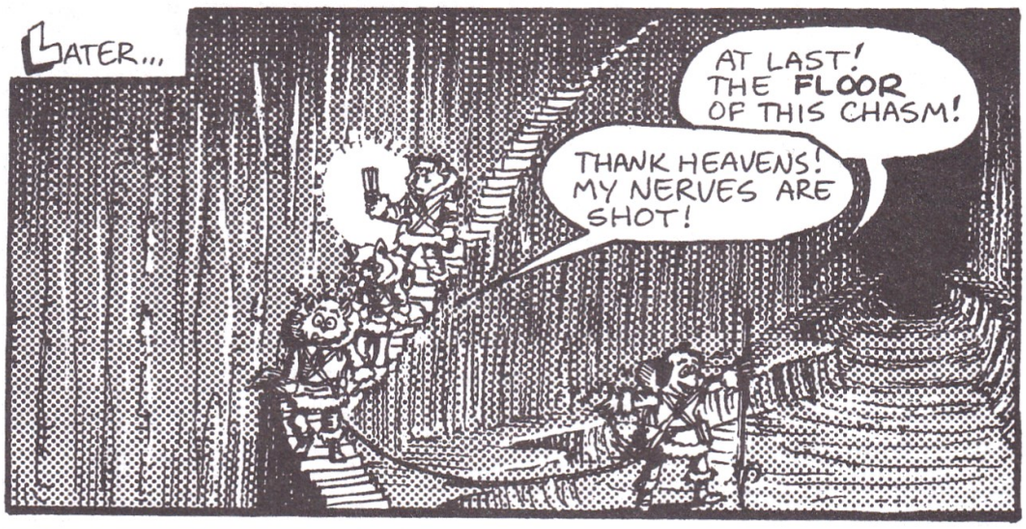
I--I THINK SO...
...WALTER--?

TWEET TWEET!
I THINK HE'S FAINTED, DAD!


PROFESSOR SCOTTY--! CAN YOU PULL US UP--? WE'LL CLIMB AS HIGH AS WE CAN...
I'LL TRY-- BUT THERE ARE THREE OF YOU, AND IF MR. KITTY IS UNCONSCIOUS HE'LL JUST BE A DEAD WEIGHT!
WALTER-- WALTER--! WAKE UP!!
HUH? WHA--? WHAT'S GOING ON?
!
?!
GASP!!
ZOOM!
JEEZ, WALTER--! I NEVER SAW ANYBODY MOVE THAT FAST!
NOR I!
YOU CAME UP SO FAST YOU PULLED ME AND DAD UP WITH YOU!
I TOLD YOU I WAS AFRAID OF HEIGHTS!
ARE YOU O.K., DAD?
JUST A LITTLE SHAKY, DARLING!
THAT WAS QUICK THINKING ON YOUR PART! — YOU SAVED OUR LIVES!
I DID WHAT HAD TO BE DONE-- NOTHING MORE!


...WHAT I WONDER IS... WHAT STARTED THAT ROCKFALL--? IT SURE DIDN'T SEEM NATURAL...
HEY! I JUST REALIZED--! ALL MY GUNS FELL DOWN THERE!

COME ON--LET'S GO... IF ANYTHING ELSE HAPPENS, I DON'T WANT TO BE ON THIS LEDGE--!
--IT'S A GOOD THING YOUR LAMP WAS SAFELY PACKED AWAY, CATHERINE... MINE'S GONE FOR GOOD!


LATER...
AT LAST! THE FLOOR OF THIS CHASM!
THANK HEAVENS! MY NERVES ARE SHOT!

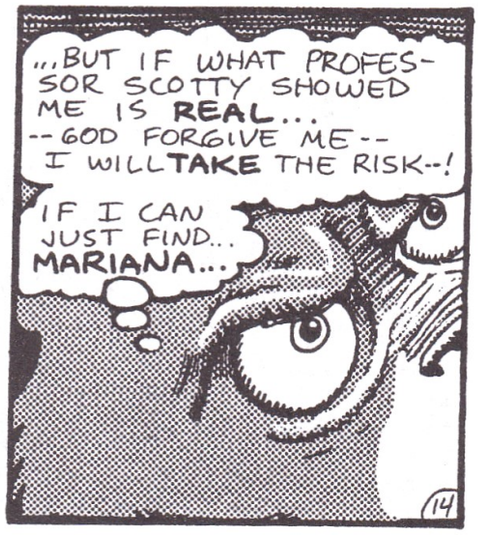
EVEN THOUGH IT'S JUST ROCK AND DIRT, IT'S LIKE A BLESSED FEATHER BED! — DON'T WAKE ME FOR SIX DAYS!
WHUMP!
...LET'S MAKE CAMP...

...WE ALL DESERVE A REST!
MY KNEES ARE SO WEAK, I COULDNT WALK ANY FURTHER, ANYWAY!
TOMORROW WE'LL TRY TO FIND OUR FALLEN EQUIPMENT-- IF THERE'S ANYTHING LEFT OF IT!

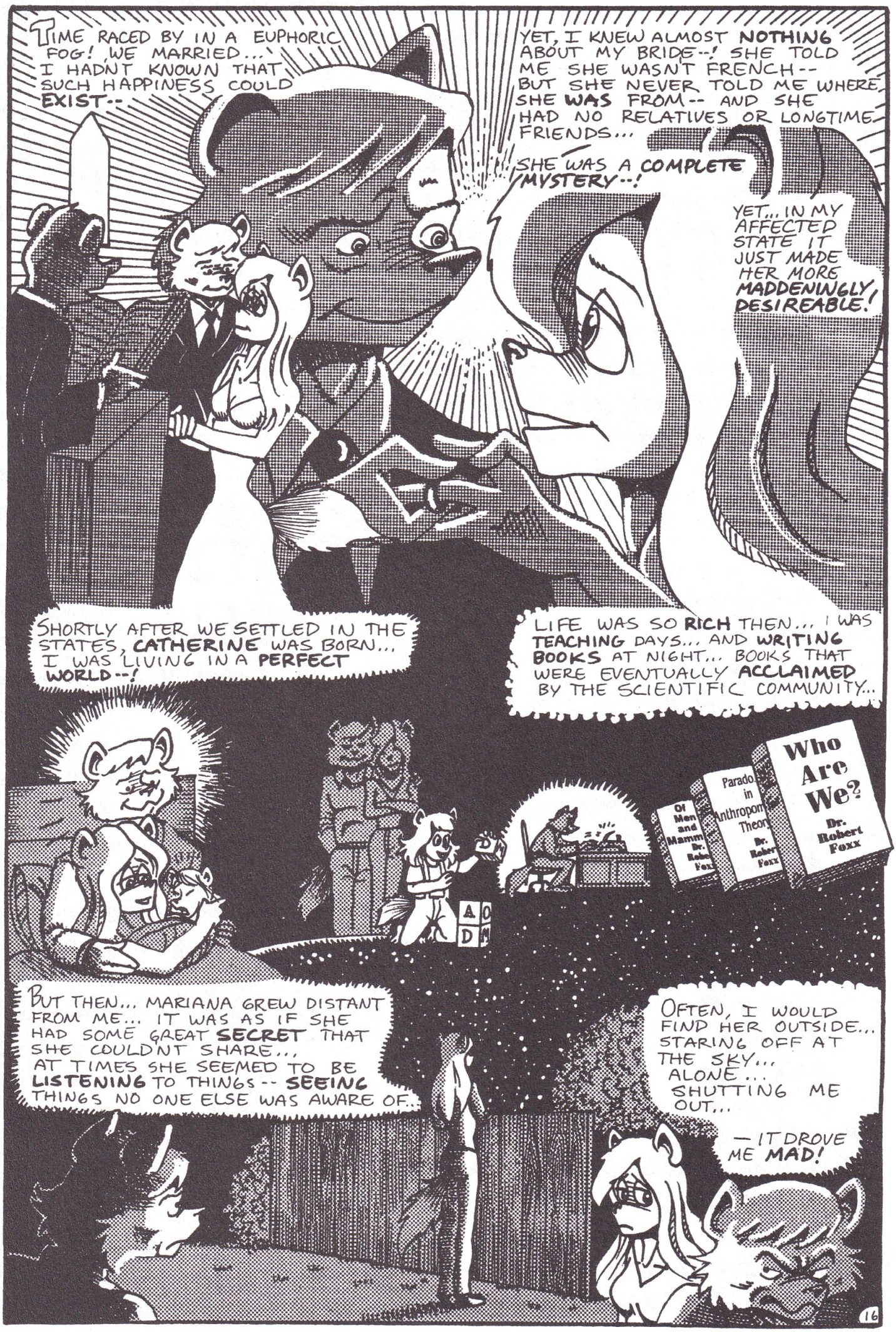
SO... THE PARTY SACKS OUT ON THE FLOOR OF THE CANYON...

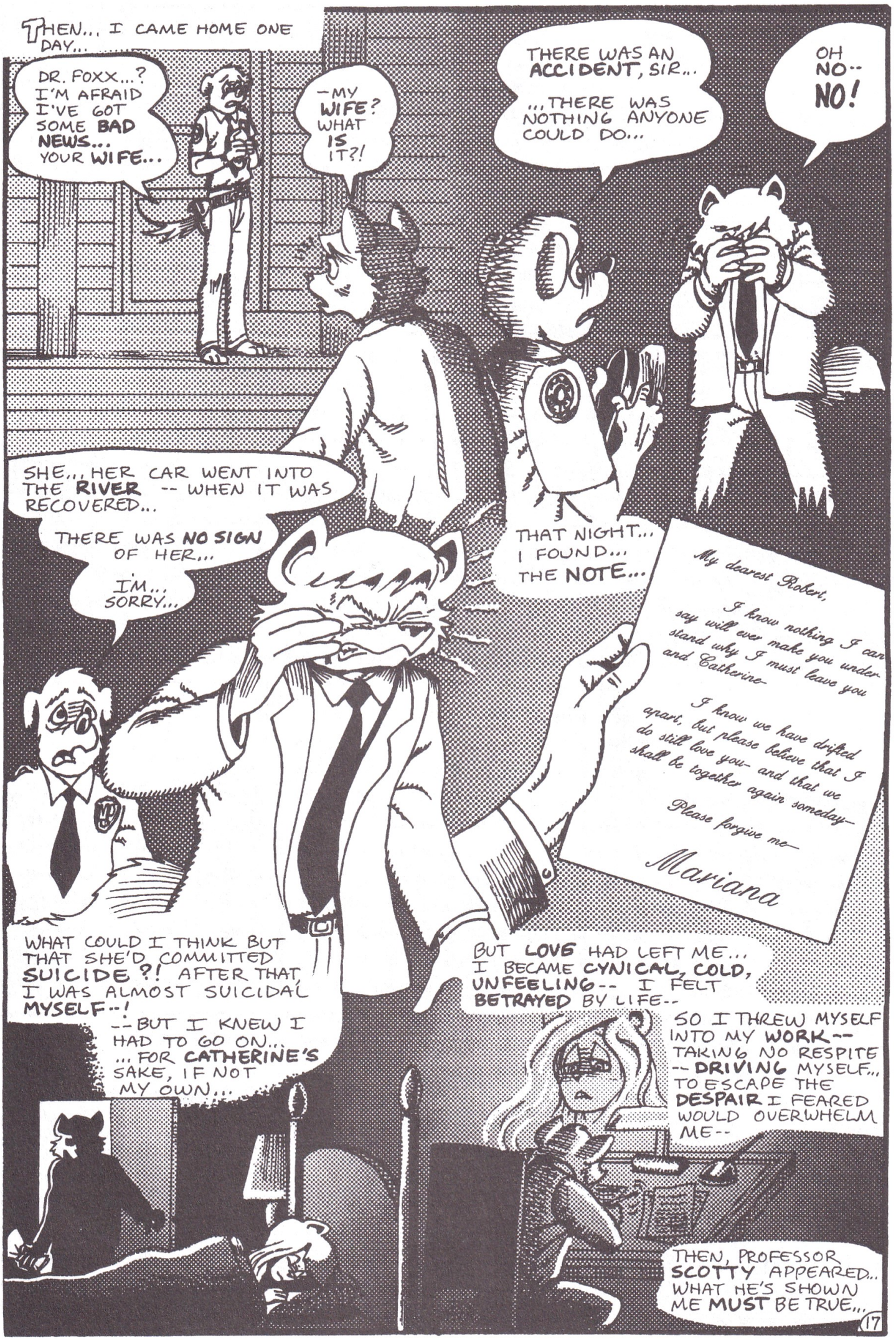
WE WERE ALMOST KILLED TODAY...

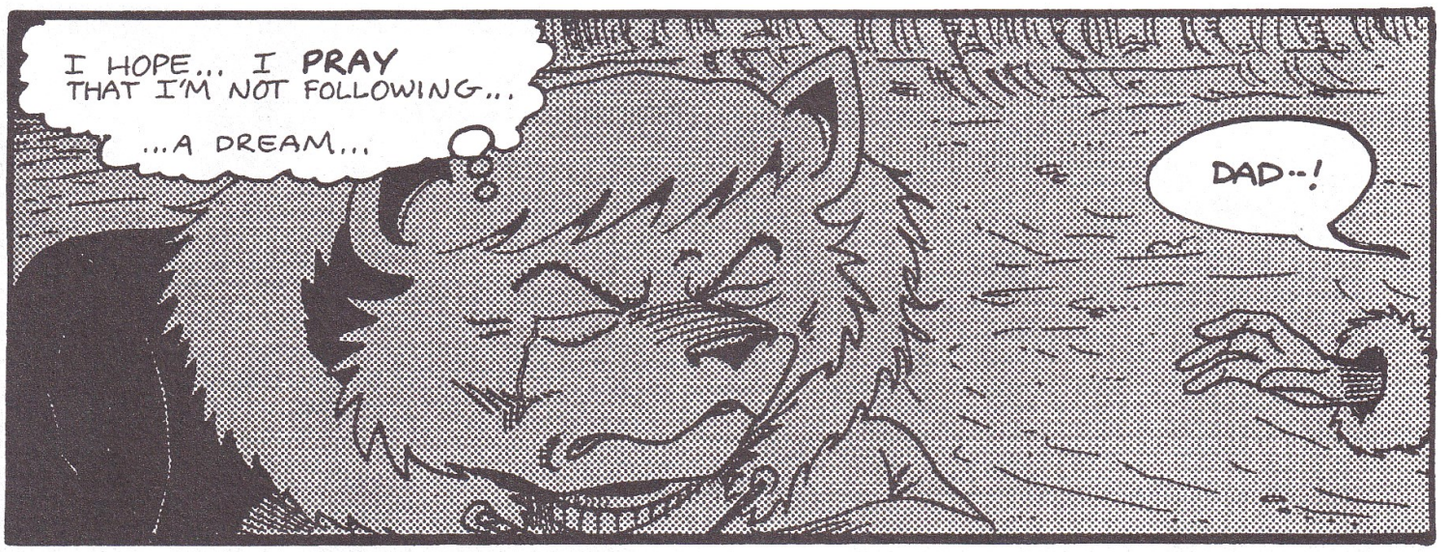
...IF ANYTHING HAD HAPPENED TO CATHERINE... I DON'T KNOW IF I COULD LIVE WITH MYSELF--!

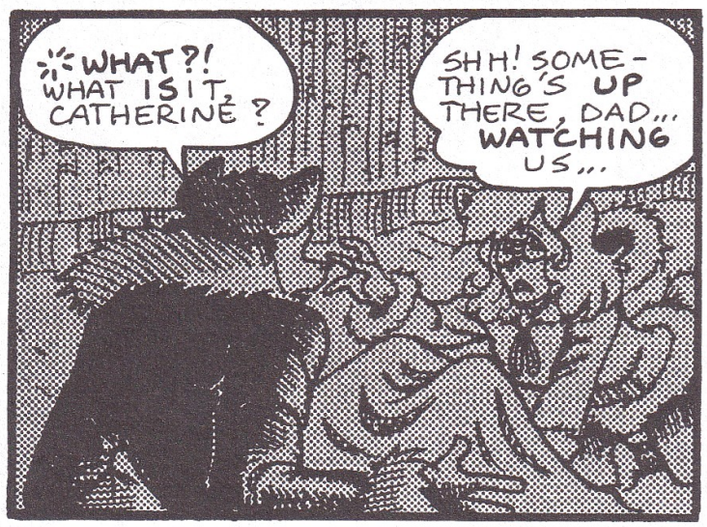

...BUT IF WHAT PROFESSOR SCOTTY SHOWED ME IS REAL... --GOD FORGIVE ME-- I WILL TAKE THE RISK--!
IF I CAN JUST FIND... MARIANA...

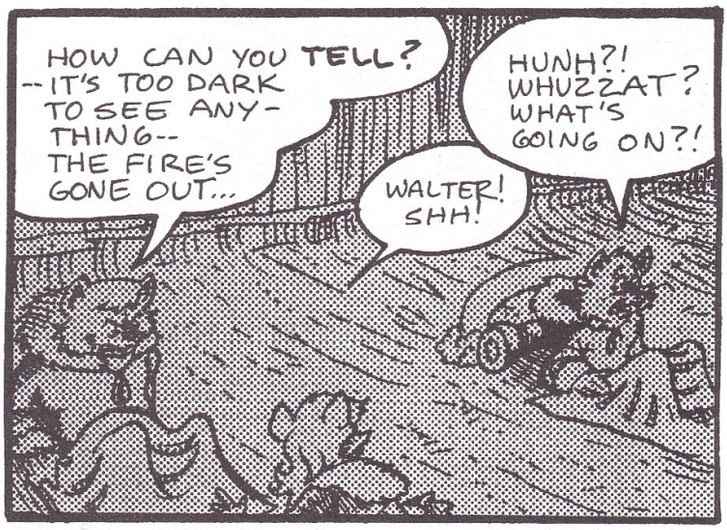
I CAN SEE HER AS CLEARLY AS IF IT WERE JUST YESTERDAY ... INSTEAD OF TWENTY YEARS AGO...
I WAS STUDYING IN PARIS-- AND WE MET IN THE UNIVERSITY LIBRARY...
--I FELT LIKE I HAD BEEN SLAPPED AWAKE SUDDENLY--! —AS IF I WAS SEEING CLEARLY FOR THE FIRST TIME IN MY LIFE--
ANTHROPOMORPHISM
I HAD ALWAYS BEEN TOO PREOCCUPIED WITH MY STUDIES TO BOTHER WITH ROMANCE... BUT SHE WAS SO BEAUTIFUL-- SO DIFFERENT-- IN FORM AND SPIRIT--
I HAD NEVER MET A WOMAN TO WHOM I WAS SO MAGICALLY, MAGNETICALLY ATTRACTED...
—IT SEEMED AS IF WE WERE MEANT TO BE LOVERS-- AS IF WE WERE INFLUENCED BY FORCES LARGER THAN OUR OWN SELF-INTEREST...

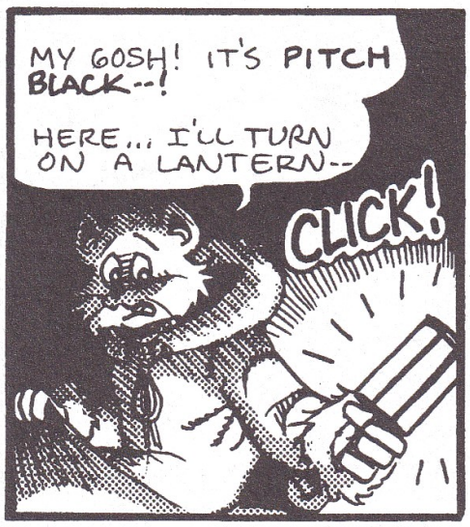

TIME RACED BY IN A EUPHORIC FOG! WE MARRIED... I HADN'T KNOWN THAT SUCH HAPPINESS COULD EXIST--
YET, I KNEW ALMOST NOTHING ABOUT MY BRIDE--! SHE TOLD ME SHE WASN'T FRENCH-- BUT SHE NEVER TOLD ME WHERE SHE WAS FROM-- AND SHE HAD NO RELATIVES OR LONGTIME FRIENDS...
SHE WAS A COMPLETE MYSTERY--!
YET... IN MY AFFECTED STATE IT JUST MADE HER MORE MADDENINGLY DESIREABLE!
SHORTLY AFTER WE SETTLED IN THE STATES, CATHERINE WAS BORN... I WAS LIVING IN A PERFECT WORLD--!
LIFE WAS SO RICH THEN... I WAS TEACHING DAYS... AND WRITING BOOKS AT NIGHT... BOOKS THAT WERE EVENTUALLY ACCLAIMED BY THE SCIENTIFIC COMMUNITY...
Who Are We? Dr. Robert Foxx
Parado in Anthropom Theor Dr. Robert Foxx
Of Men and Mamm Dr. Robe Fox
A D
BUT THEN... MARIANA GREW DISTANT FROM ME... IT WAS AS IF SHE HAD SOME GREAT SECRET THAT SHE COULDN'T SHARE... AT TIMES SHE SEEMED TO BE LISTENING TO THINGS -- SEEING THINGS NO ONE ELSE WAS AWARE OF...
OFTEN, I WOULD FIND HER OUTSIDE... STARING OFF AT THE SKY... ALONE... SHUTTING ME OUT...
— IT DROVE ME MAD!


THEN... I CAME HOME ONE DAY...
DR. FOXX...? I'M AFRAID I'VE GOT SOME BAD NEWS... YOUR WIFE...
—MY WIFE? WHAT IS IT?!
THERE WAS AN ACCIDENT, SIR...
...THERE WAS NOTHING ANYONE COULD DO...
OH NO-- NO!
SHE... HER CAR WENT INTO THE RIVER -- WHEN IT WAS RECOVERED...
THERE WAS NO SIGN OF HER...
I'M... SORRY...
THAT NIGHT... I FOUND... THE NOTE...
My dearest Robert,
I know nothing I can say will ever make you understand why I must leave you and Catherine—
I know we have drifted apart, but please believe that I do still love you— and that we shall be together again someday—
Please forgive me—
Mariana
WHAT COULD I THINK BUT THAT SHE'D COMMITTED SUICIDE?! AFTER THAT, I WAS ALMOST SUICIDAL MYSELF--!
--BUT I KNEW I HAD TO GO ON... ...FOR CATHERINE'S SAKE, IF NOT MY OWN...
BUT LOVE HAD LEFT ME... I BECAME CYNICAL, COLD, UNFEELING-- I FELT BETRAYED BY LIFE--
SO I THREW MYSELF INTO MY WORK-- TAKING NO RESPITE --DRIVING MYSELF... TO ESCAPE THE DESPAIR I FEARED WOULD OVERWHELM ME--
THEN, PROFESSOR SCOTTY APPEARED... WHAT HE'S SHOWN ME MUST BE TRUE...


I HOPE... I PRAY THAT I'M NOT FOLLOWING...
...A DREAM...
DAD--!

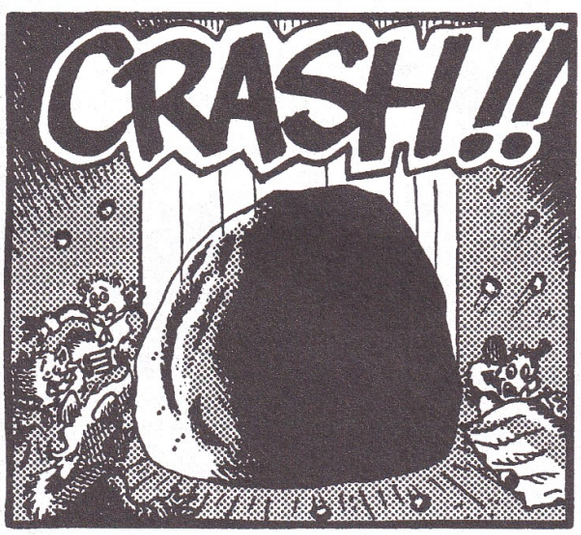

WHAT?! WHAT IS IT, CATHERINE?
SHH! SOMETHING'S UP THERE, DAD... WATCHING US...


HOW CAN YOU TELL? --IT'S TOO DARK TO SEE ANYTHING-- THE FIRE'S GONE OUT...
HUNH?! WHUZZAT? WHAT'S GOING ON?!
WALTER! SHH!


MY GOSH! IT'S PITCH BLACK--! HERE... I'LL TURN ON A LANTERN--
CLICK!

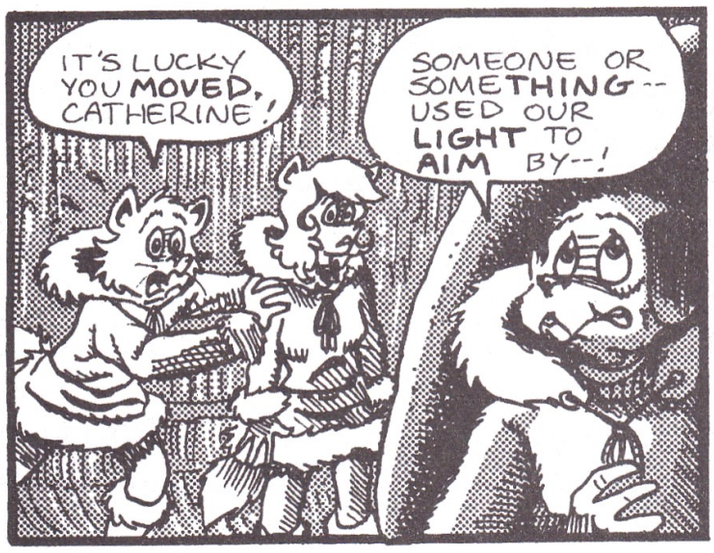
?! WHAT ARE YOU DOING OVER THERE CATHERINE?
WELL... I THOUGHT I... I SENSED A PRESENCE-- ABOVE US...

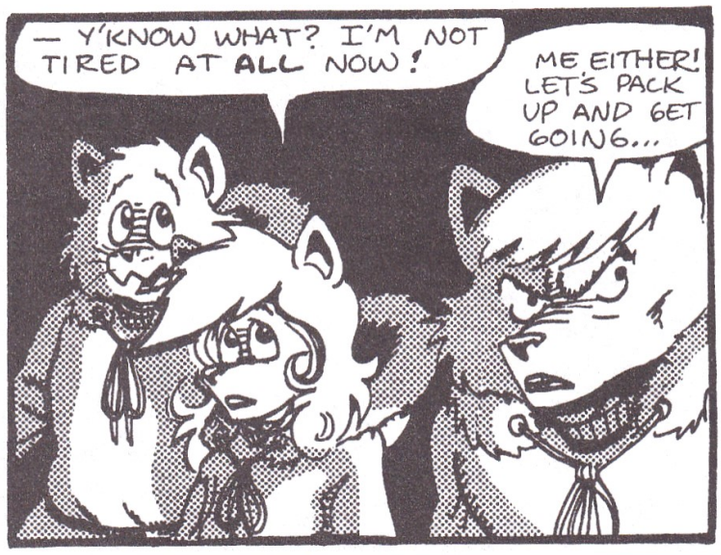
ARE YOU SURE YOU WEREN'T ... DREAMING--?
WHAT TH'--?!
BLINK!
BONK!


CRASH!!

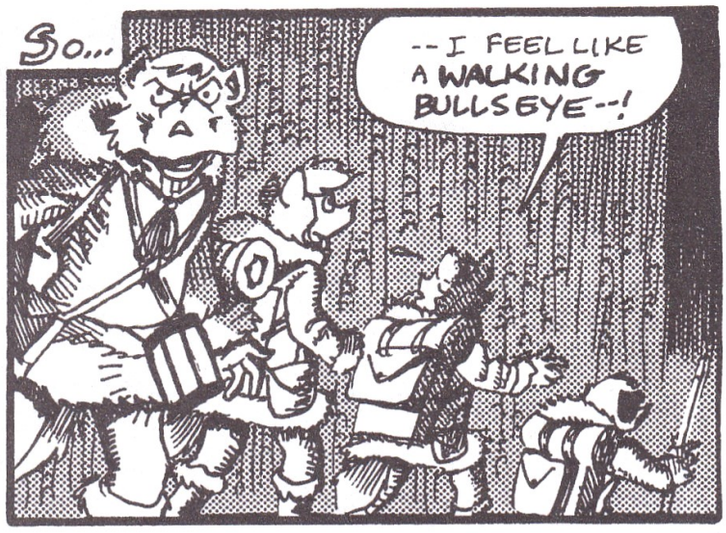
HOLY COW!!

MY GOD! WHAT--?! HOW?!
IT LANDED RIGHT IN OUR MIDST!
...RIGHT WHERE I HAD BEEN SLEEPING!

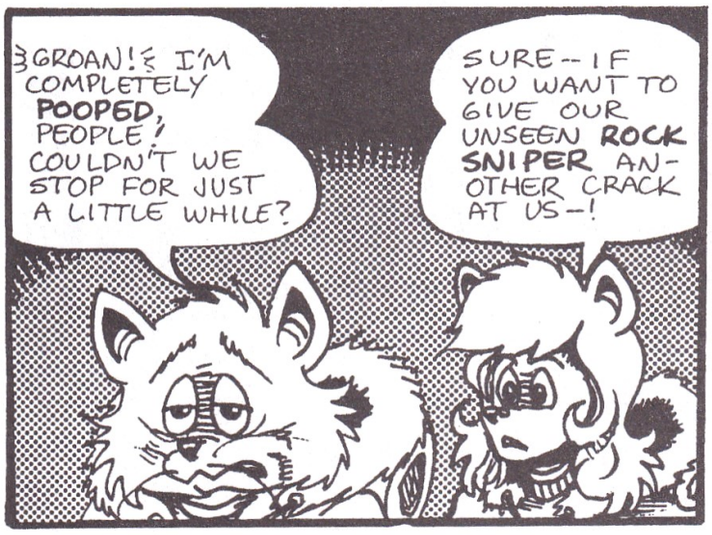

IT'S LUCKY YOU MOVED, CATHERINE!
SOMEONE OR SOMETHING-- USED OUR LIGHT TO AIM BY--!


— Y'KNOW WHAT? I'M NOT TIRED AT ALL NOW!
ME EITHER! LET'S PACK UP AND GET GOING...

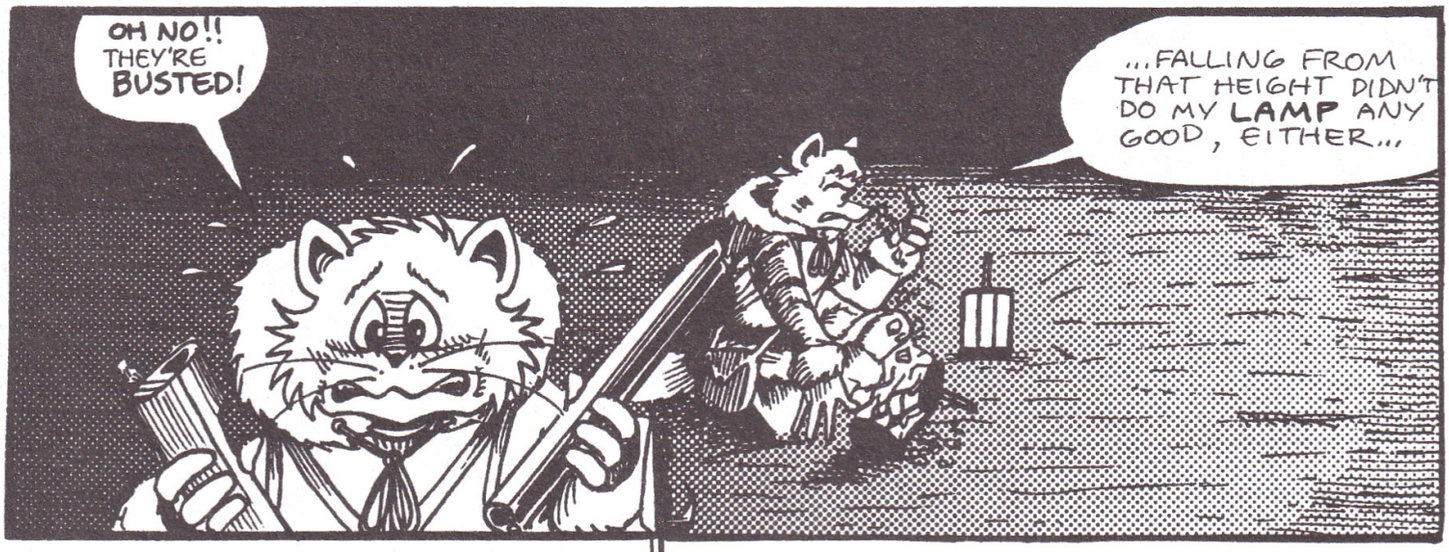
...IF WE MUST BE TARGETS, LET'S BE MOVING ONES--!

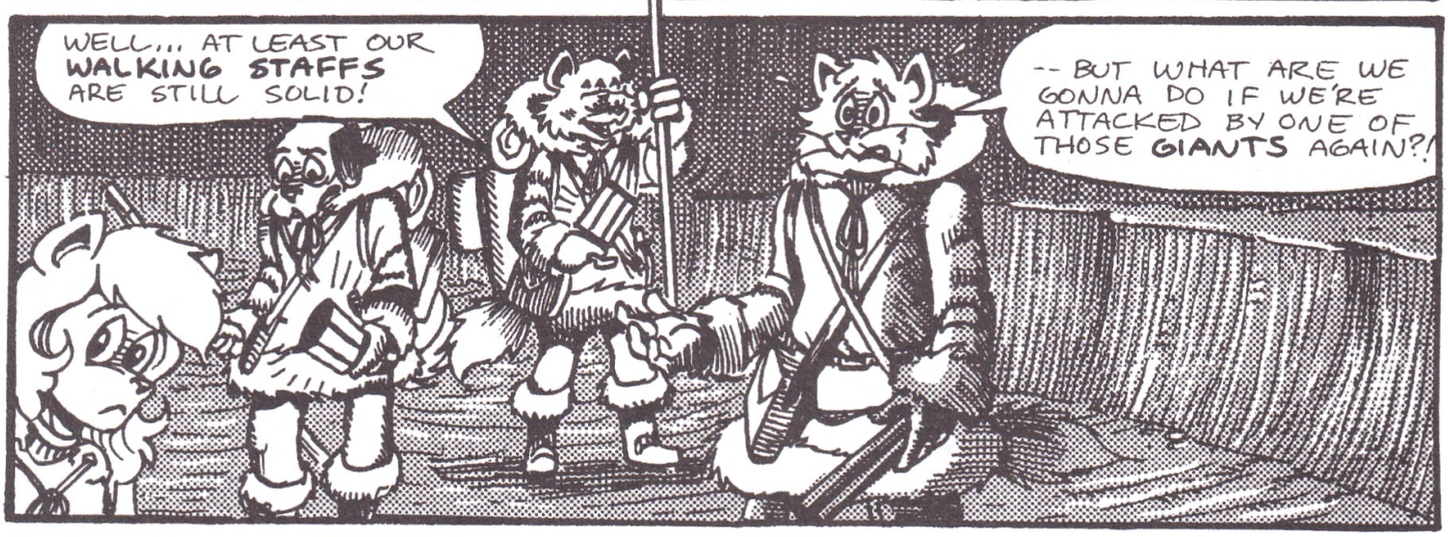

SO...
--I FEEL LIKE A WALKING BULLSEYE--!

SEVERAL HOURS LATER...
WE MUST BE DEEP WITHIN THE HENALAYINS-- I WONDER HOW MUCH LONGER THIS WILL GO ON?
WHY, THIS IS JUST THE TIP OF THE ICEBERG!

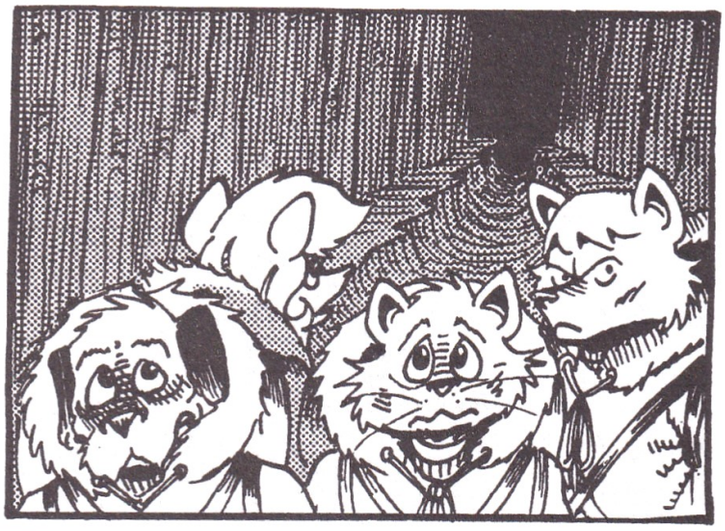

GROAN! I'M COMPLETELY POOPED, PEOPLE! COULDN'T WE STOP FOR JUST A LITTLE WHILE?
SURE--IF YOU WANT TO GIVE OUR UNSEEN ROCK SNIPER ANOTHER CRACK AT US--!

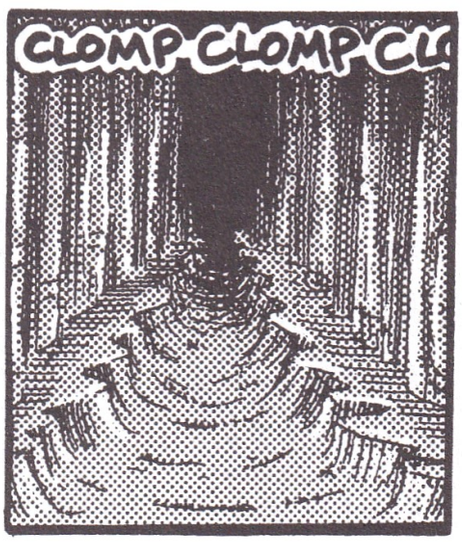
--LOOK!
—MY GUNS!!


OH NO!! THEY'RE BUSTED!
...FALLING FROM THAT HEIGHT DIDN'T DO MY LAMP ANY GOOD, EITHER...


WELL... AT LEAST OUR WALKING STAFFS ARE STILL SOLID!
-- BUT WHAT ARE WE GONNA DO IF WE'RE ATTACKED BY ONE OF THOSE GIANTS AGAIN?!

WAIT! HUSH!
HUH? WHAT'S WRONG, CATH-ERINE--?
SHH! -- LISTEN!

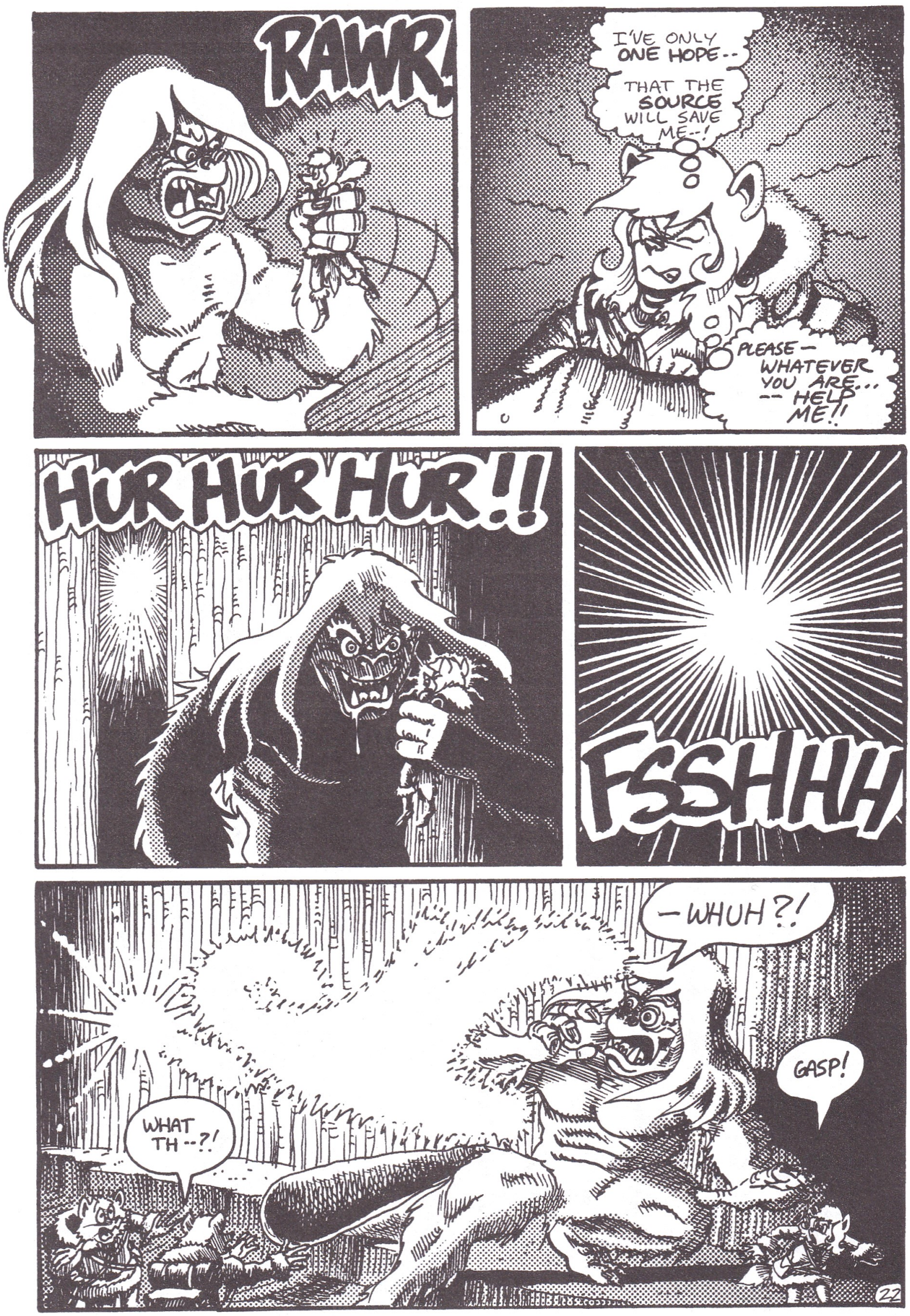



CLOMP CLOMP CL

MP CLOMP CLOM

CLOMP CL

OH NO--!! I KNEW IT!!
ANOTHER ONE!! RUN FOR IT!!
RRRRRR
RRRRRR
CLOMP CLOMP CLOMP CLO
BASH!
RAWR!
!!EE!!
EEEEEYOW!!
WHOOSH
CATHERINE--!! LOOK OUT!!
- NO!!
AGH!!


RAWR!
I'VE ONLY ONE HOPE--
THAT THE SOURCE WILL SAVE ME--!
PLEASE— WHATEVER YOU ARE... -- HELP ME!!
HUR HUR HUR!!
FSSHHH
—WHUH?!
GASP!
WHAT TH--?!
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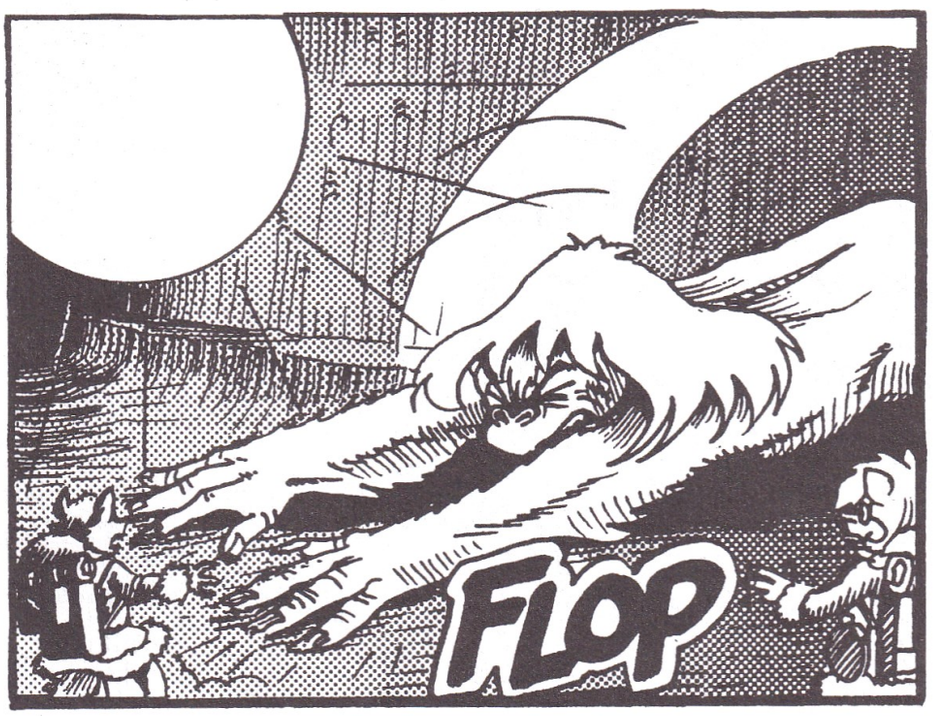
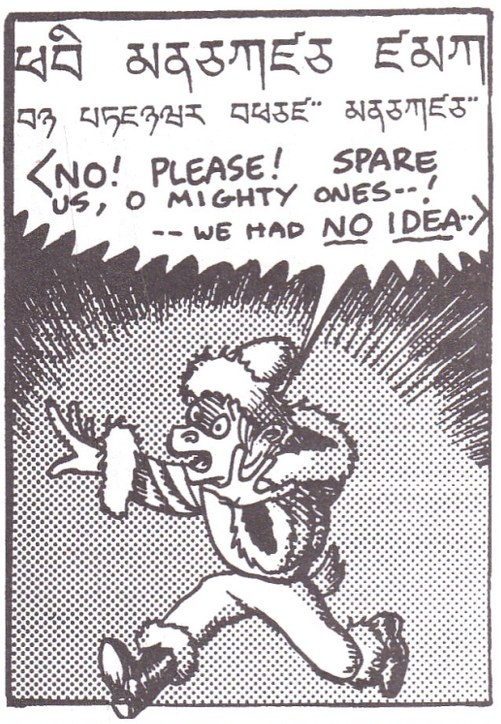
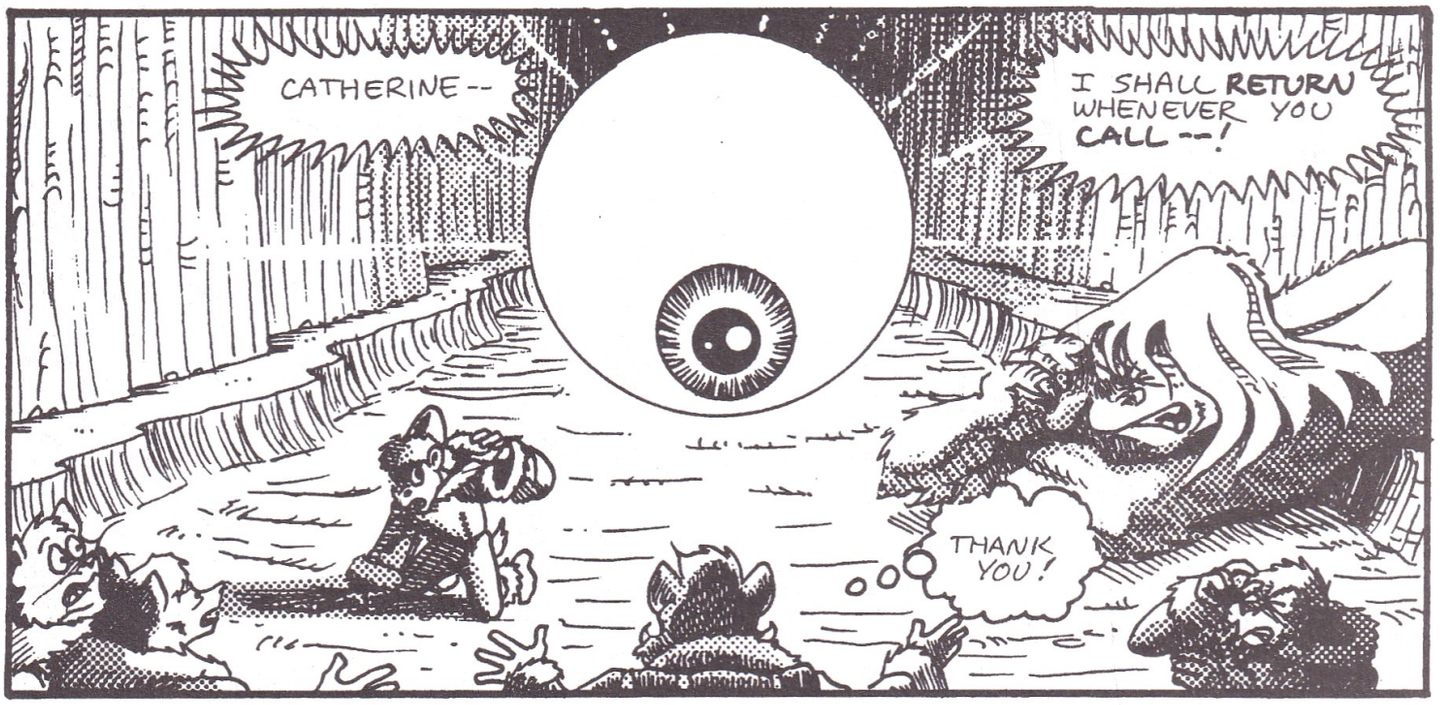
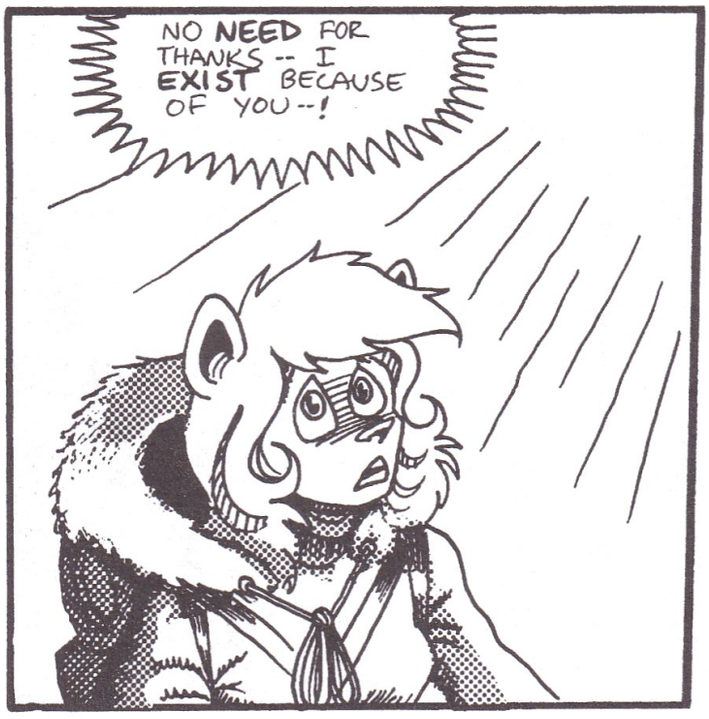
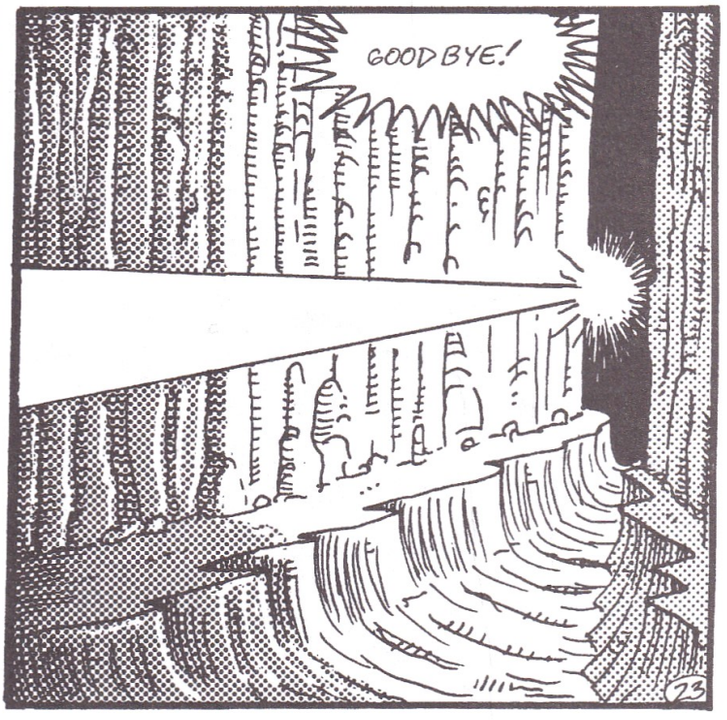
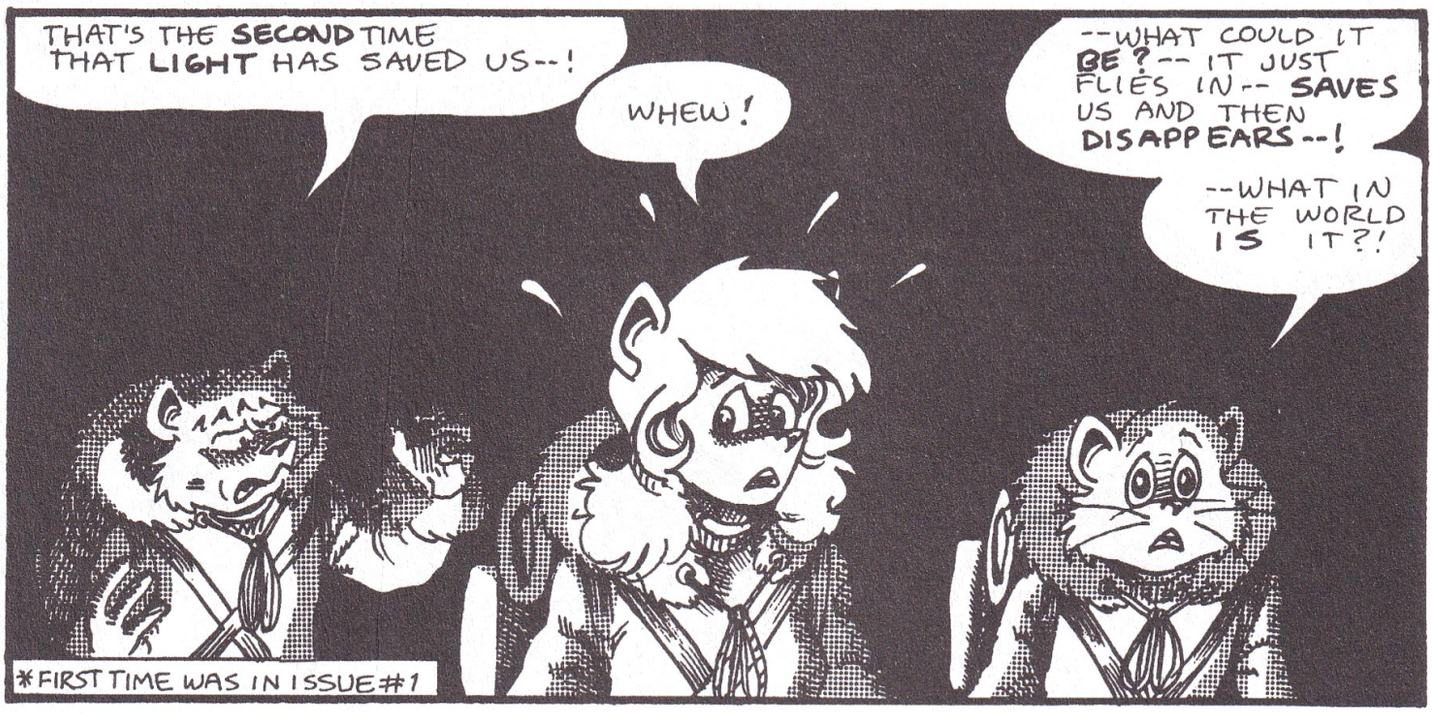

FLOP


NO! PLEASE! SPARE US, O MIGHTY ONES--! -- WE HAD NO IDEA--


CATHERINE--
I SHALL RETURN WHENEVER YOU CALL--!
THANK YOU!


NO NEED FOR THANKS -- I EXIST BECAUSE OF YOU--!

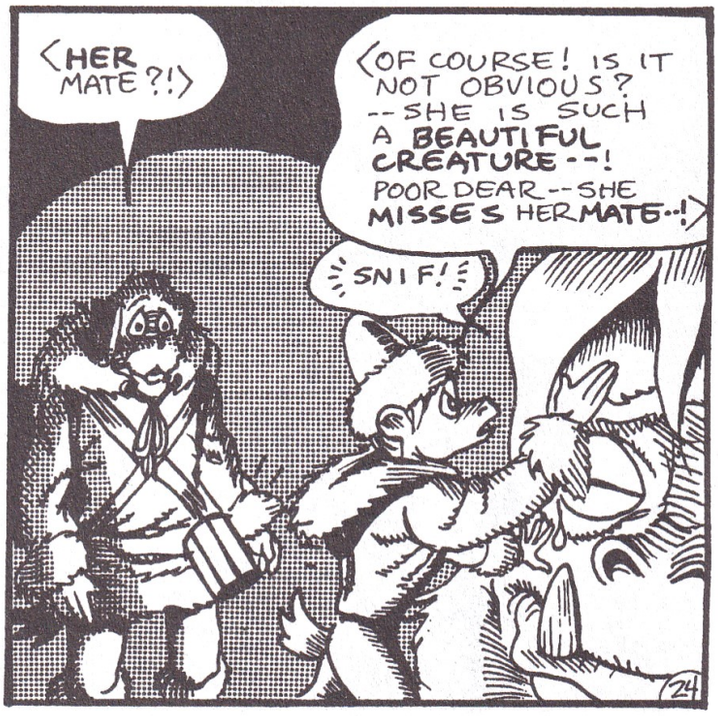

GOOD BYE!


THAT'S THE SECOND TIME THAT LIGHT HAS SAVED US--!
WHEW!
--WHAT COULD IT BE?-- IT JUST FLIES IN-- SAVES US AND THEN DISAPPEARS--!
--WHAT IN THE WORLD IS IT?!
*FIRST TIME WAS IN ISSUE #1

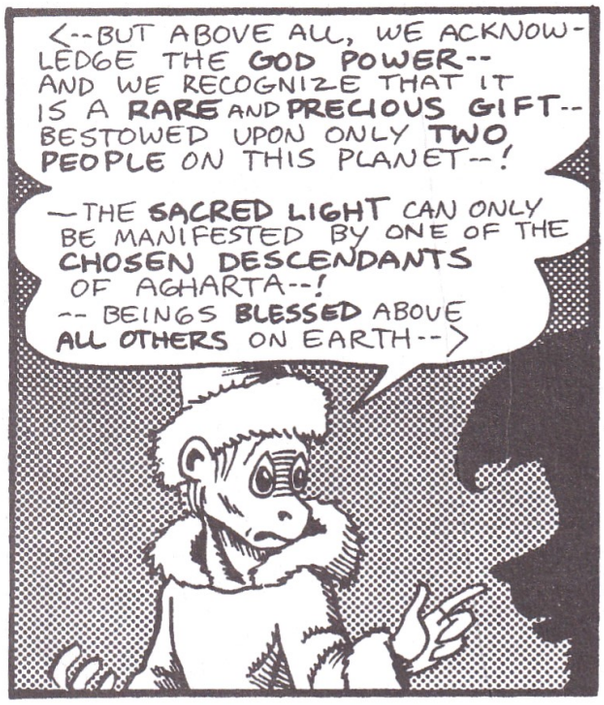
WELL-- FIRST THINGS FIRST-- WHAT ABOUT THESE TWO--?!
I SPEAK YUBETAN...
<WHO ARE YOU?>

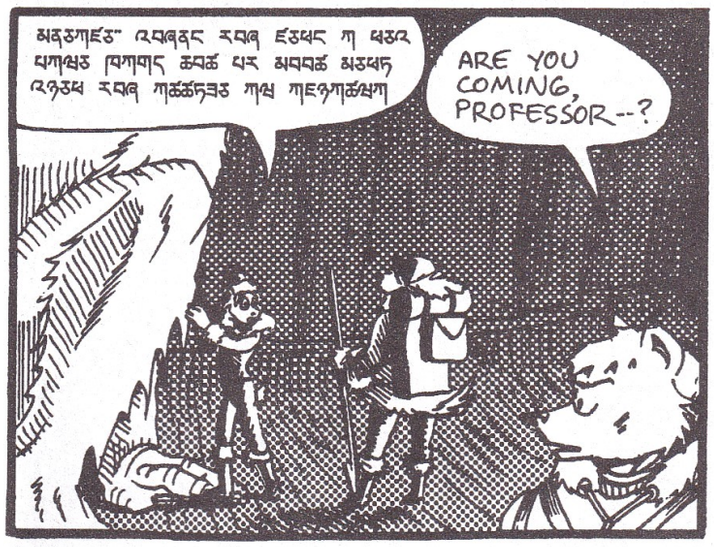
<--WHY WERE YOU TRYING TO KILL US?!>
<IT IS OUR JOB!>

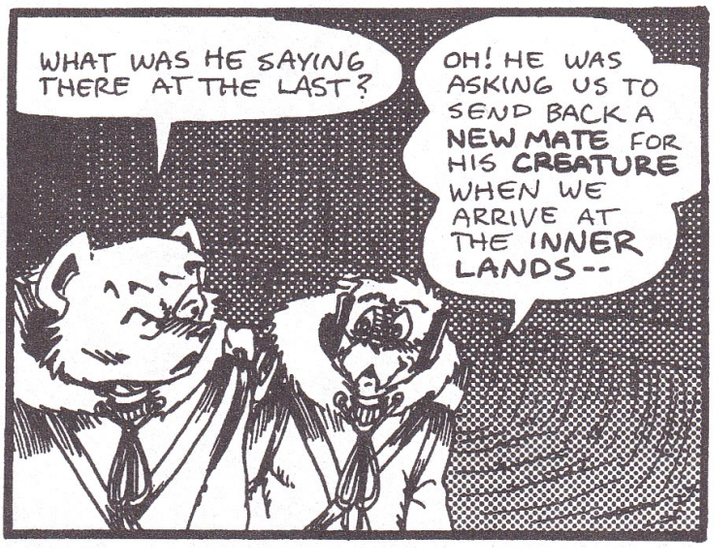
<--THIS IS THE GUARDIAN OF THE GATEWAY-- THE ONLY SURVIVING ONE LEFT-->
<SURVIVING ONE?>
<YES-- HER MATE WAS KILLED BY YOUR GUNBEARER EARLIER--!>


<HER MATE?!>
<OF COURSE! IS IT NOT OBVIOUS? --SHE IS SUCH A BEAUTIFUL CREATURE--! POOR DEAR--SHE MISSES HER MATE--!>
SNIF!

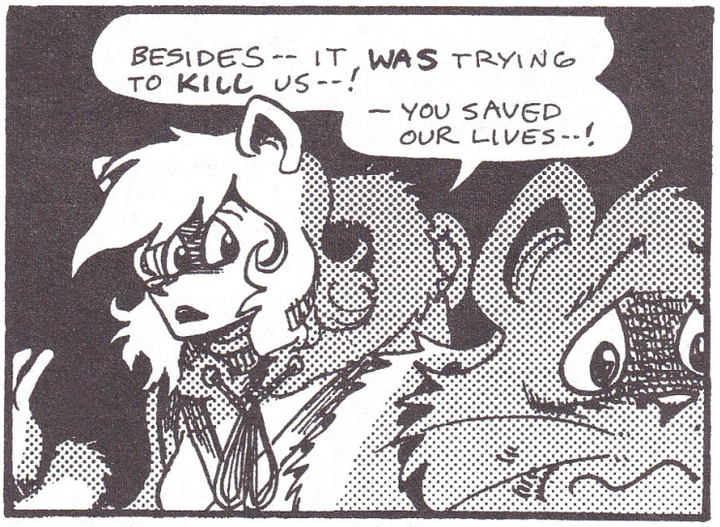
<WELL... HE WAS TRYING TO KILL US--!>
<I KNOW! BUT IF HE HAD KNOWN YOU WERE ALLIES OF THE GOD-POWER-->
<-HE WOULDN'T HAVE DENIED YOU ACCESS TO THE GATE-WAY! --WE THOUGHT YOU WERE TRESPASSERS!>
}SIGH{ YETA HERE IS A DESCENDANT OF OTHERS, WHO, LIKE HERSELF, WERE BRED TO THE TASK OF DEFENDING THE GATEWAY FROM INTRUDERS-->
<-WHEN HER MATE FAILED TO STOP YOU, IT BECAME HER DUTY TO DO SO!>
<BUT-- WHO ARE YOU?>
<I AM ONE OF THE LLAMAS OF SHAPRA--! A SECRET MONASTERY NOT FAR FROM THE GATEWAY...>
<FOR COUNTLESS GENERATIONS MY ANCESTORS HAVE GUARDED THE SECRET OF THE GATEWAY FROM THE OUTSIDE WORLD--
IT HAS BEEN OUR DUTY-- OUR SACRED PRIVILEGE-->
25

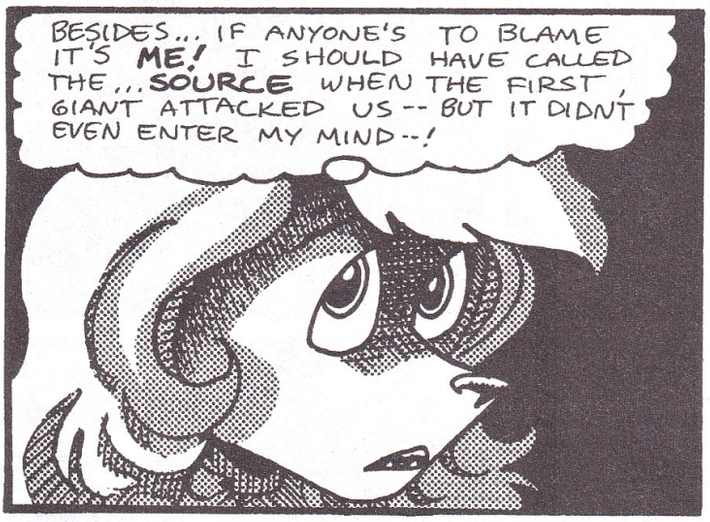

<--BUT ABOVE ALL, WE ACKNOWLEDGE THE GOD POWER-- AND WE RECOGNIZE THAT IT IS A RARE AND PRECIOUS GIFT-- BESTOWED UPON ONLY TWO PEOPLE ON THIS PLANET--!
—THE SACRED LIGHT CAN ONLY BE MANIFESTED BY ONE OF THE CHOSEN DESCENDANTS OF AGHARTA--! -- BEINGS BLESSED ABOVE ALL OTHERS ON EARTH-->
<--LIKE YOU, OH HOLY VESSEL!
PLEASE-- FORGIVE ME--!
PLEASE, PLEASE, FORGIVE ME!>
SOB!
NO-- PLEASE-- WHAT'S WRONG--? WHY IS HE CRYING?
ER... HE DID NOT REALIZE THERE WAS A... FEMALE AMONG US...
...AND HE'S CRYING BECAUSE HE ALMOST KILLED YOU! --THESE YUBETANS ARE VERY SUPERSTITIOUS-- IT'S BAD FORTUNE TO KILL A WOMAN HERE...
PLEASE... GET UP-- IT'S O.K. -- I'M FINE...
—THEN HE AND THIS PET MONSTER OF HIS ROLLED THOSE BOULDERS DOWN ON US!
-- IT'S THEIR DUTY TO GUARD THE GATEWAY -- WE'RE EXTREMELY LUCKY TO BE ALIVE!
—AND WE CAN GO? THEY WON'T IMPEDE US ANY MORE?
THAT'S RIGHT...
—THEN, LET'S NOT ASK ANY MORE QUESTIONS! LET'S DEPART!


ARE YOU COMING, PROFESSOR--?

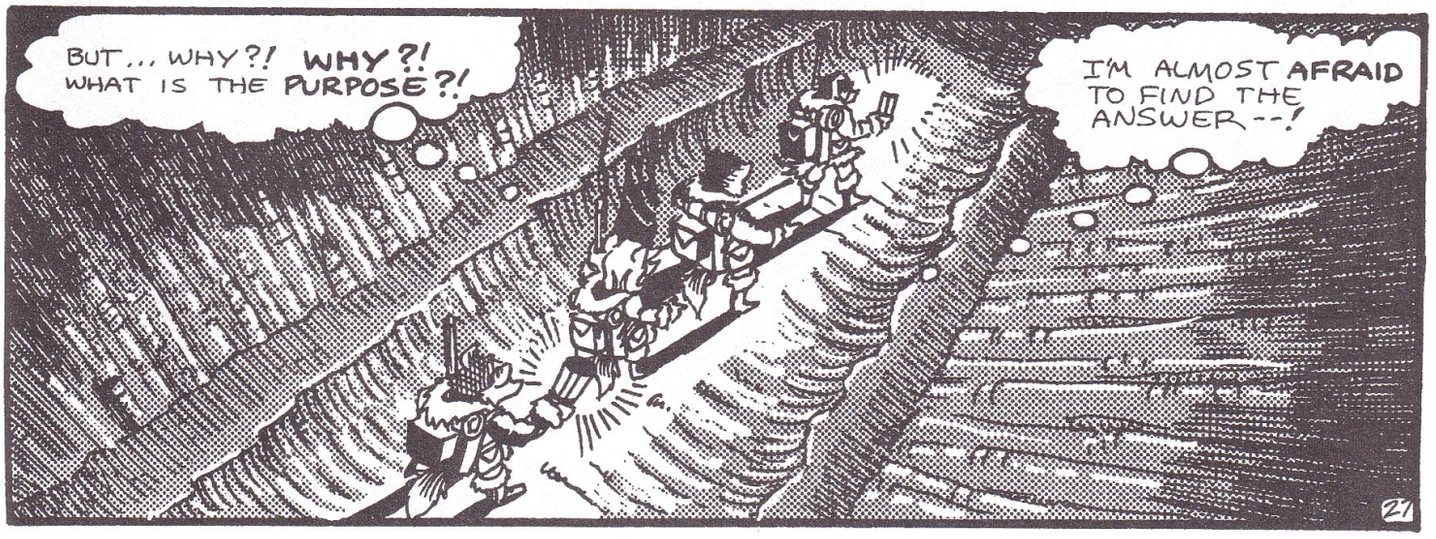

WHAT WAS HE SAYING THERE AT THE LAST?
OH! HE WAS ASKING US TO SEND BACK A NEW MATE FOR HIS CREATURE WHEN WE ARRIVE AT THE INNER LANDS--

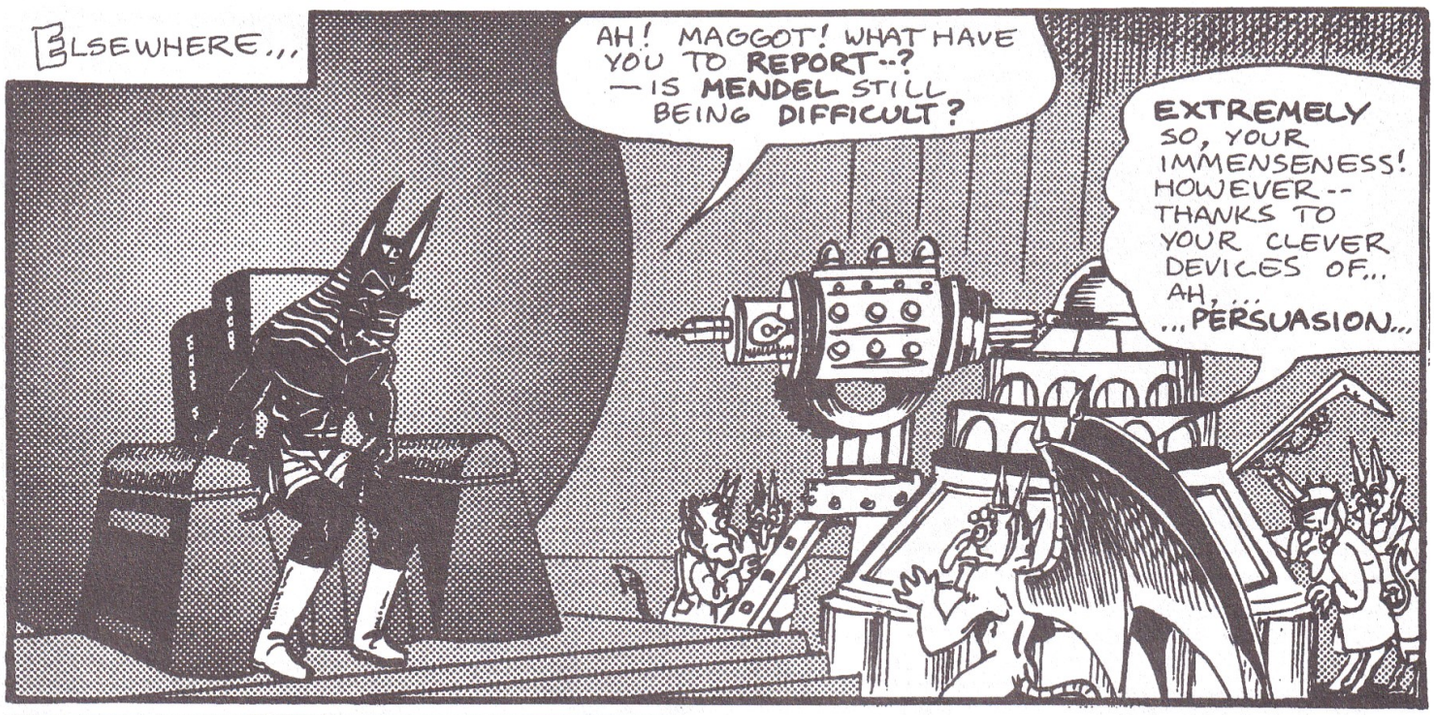
HE'S AFRAID SHE'LL WASTE AWAY FROM MOURNING -- IT GETS MIGHTY LONELY IN THESE DESOLATE MOUNTAINS...
-- I FEEL LIKE A MURDERER!
NO, WALTER-- YOU DIDN'T KNOW...

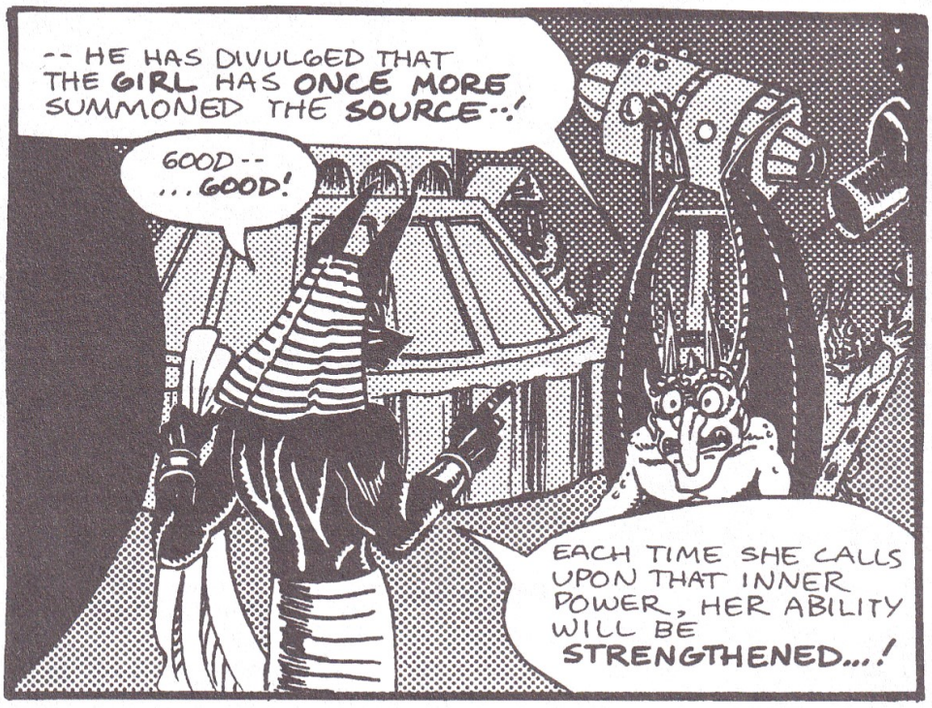

BESIDES-- IT WAS TRYING TO KILL US--!
-- YOU SAVED OUR LIVES--!

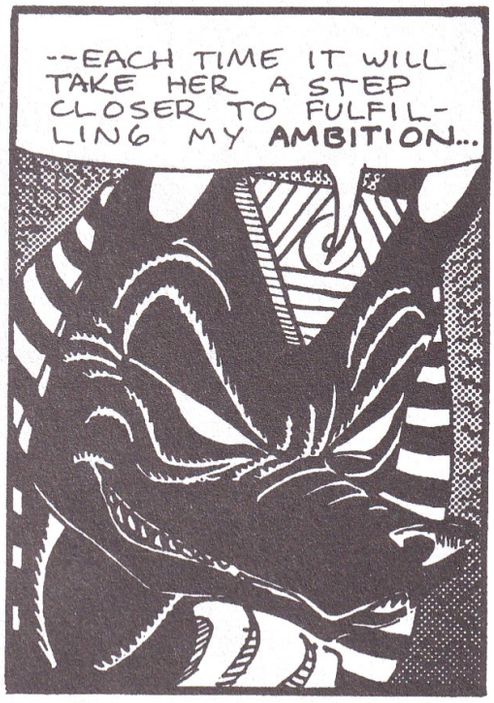

BESIDES... IF ANYONE'S TO BLAME IT'S ME! I SHOULD HAVE CALLED THE... SOURCE WHEN THE FIRST GIANT ATTACKED US-- BUT IT DIDN'T EVEN ENTER MY MIND--!

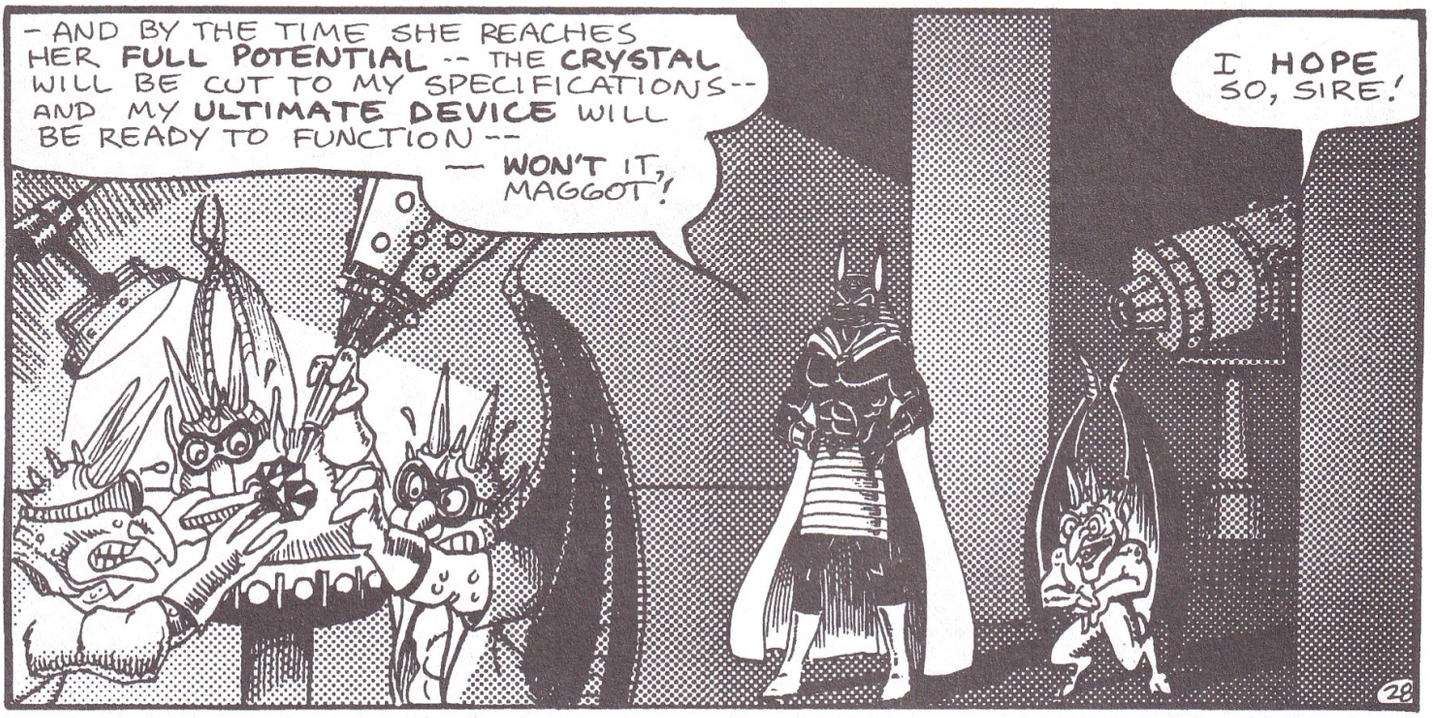
I'VE GOT TO THINK ABOUT THIS... SOMEHOW... I'VE BEEN GIVEN A GREAT GIFT...
BUT I CAN SEE THAT A GREAT RESPONSIBILITY GOES ALONG WITH IT--!


BUT... WHY?! WHY?! WHAT IS THE PURPOSE?!
I'M ALMOST AFRAID TO FIND THE ANSWER--!

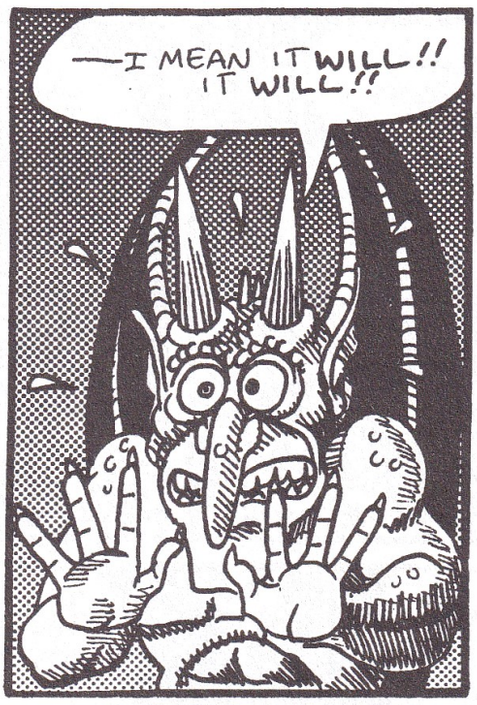

ELSEWHERE...
AH! MAGGOT! WHAT HAVE YOU TO REPORT--? —IS MENDEL STILL BEING DIFFICULT?
EXTREMELY SO, YOUR IMMENSENESS! HOWEVER-- THANKS TO YOUR CLEVER DEVICES OF... AH,... ...PERSUASION...

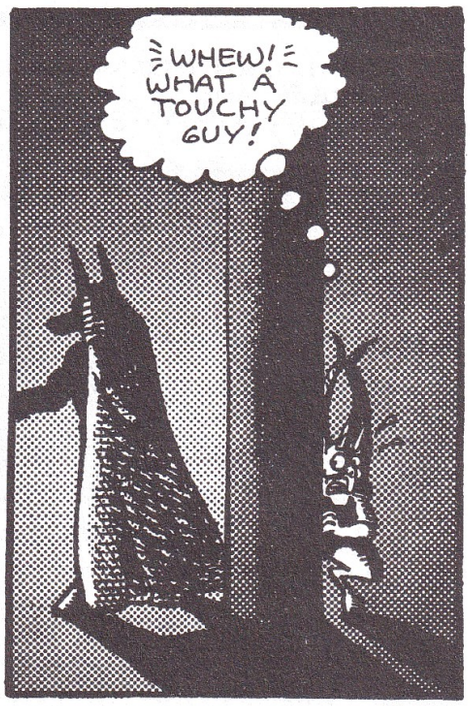

--HE HAS DIVULGED THAT THE GIRL HAS ONCE MORE SUMMONED THE SOURCE--!
GOOD-- ...GOOD!
EACH TIME SHE CALLS UPON THAT INNER POWER, HER ABILITY WILL BE STRENGTHENED...!


--EACH TIME IT WILL TAKE HER A STEP CLOSER TO FULFILLING MY AMBITION...


-AND BY THE TIME SHE REACHES HER FULL POTENTIAL -- THE CRYSTAL WILL BE CUT TO MY SPECIFICATIONS-- AND MY ULTIMATE DEVICE WILL BE READY TO FUNCTION-- — WON'T IT, MAGGOT!
I HOPE SO, SIRE!

...YOU... HOPE SO...?


—I MEAN IT WILL!! IT WILL!!


WHEW! WHAT A TOUCHY GUY!

—THEN, MY GREATEST DESIRE WILL FINALLY BE REALIZED!

LATER...
... PROF. SCOTTY?
YES, DR. FOXX?

...SOMETHING'S BEEN TROUBLING ME -- AND I JUST HAVE TO KNOW THE ANSWER...
—AND THAT IS--?

—WHEN YOU FIRST VISITED ME IN ARKVILLE AND TOLD ME OF YOUR DISCOVERY OF THE GATEWAY...*
DIDN'T YOU TELL ME THAT YOU TOUCHED OFF A...
*LAST ISSUE!
... BOOBY TRAP -- THAT CAUSED THE GATEWAY TO BE DESTROYED --?!
WHY, YES -- YES I DID! STRANGE, ISN'T IT... THAT THE GATEWAY WAS INTACT AGAIN WHEN WE ARRIVED... ?
VERY! HOW DO YOU ACCOUNT FOR THAT?!
WHY... THE GUARDIANS MUST HAVE REBUILT IT! YES -- THAT'S WHAT MUST HAVE HAPPENED...
... DON'T YOU THINK SO...?
30

The Kitty Box

Vision Comics
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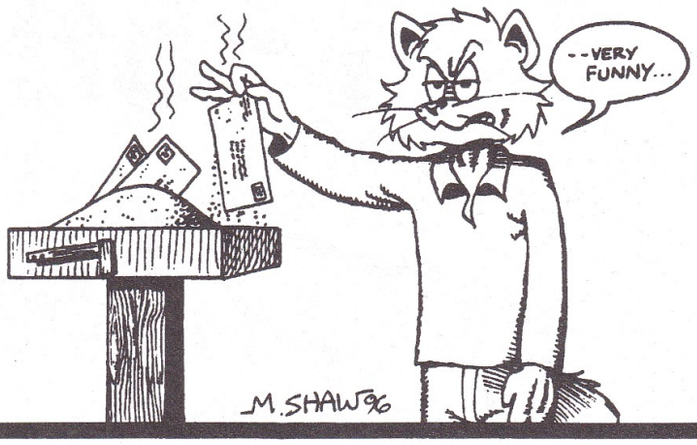

AAACK--arrHHAAARRCHK! HHARK!--Oh, excuse me... I was coughing up a hairball. Uncle Mark here again, with a few comments on issue #2 of THE HOLLOW EARTH! Let's see what our readers have to say...

Dear Mark,
Thank you for your response to my letter about THE #1! I really didn't expect answers to my questions about Mariana or the mystery millionairess, but I decided to raise them anyway. As for Patrick McGoohan and Dr. Foxx: I re-read THE HOLLOW EARTH #1, imagining McGoohan as Foxx's "voice". (I prepared for this by watching a few minutes of one of my favorite Prisoner episodes, "Hammer into Anvil". [By the way, thank you for the opportunity to impress you with that reference.]) I can see what you were trying to do, but I personally have an easier time with William Windom as Foxx. This is probably because (to me, at least) much of Foxx's dialogue just doesn't "sound" British and formal enough to be coming from McGoohan.

By the way, if The Hollow Earth ever gets animated, you should go for it and try to get McGoohan as Foxx's voice actor. But if this doesn't work out, I think Windom would make an excellent second choice. Besides, Windom has already done many animated roles (most notably Uncle Chuck on ABC's Sonic the Hedgehog).
Mark Lungo
Middleburg Heights, OH

AARGH!! Now I hear Dr. Foxx speaking with William Windom's voice too!! Does this mean I can't imagine Don Knotts as Walter's voice anymore? YAAAAAAA!!

Dear Walter Kitty..
Dr. Foxx reminds me a lot of my own dad, he is one of the biggest skeptics. Professor Oliver Scotty had me going as he related his tale of finding the seven entrances to the underworld. It kind of brought back memories of Indiana Jones, or of Huck Finn and Tom Sawyer as they explored that mysterious cave. This story is full of magic and adventure. I felt like a kid again, hiding under my blanket, holding my flashlight and reading my new comics. I felt sorry for Walter as he got the boot from Dr. Foxx, and there are a lot of sparks between Catherine and Walter. I had a good laugh as I saw Walter carrying his Acme 75mm Recoilless Rifle and blowing a hole in that mean ol' Yeti. Walter is truly the hero. Also, what a nice reunion with our hero Walter and Catherine. WALTER KITTY IN THE HOLLOW EARTH #2 was another exciting, spectacular story that goes beyond the norm in storytelling. Also, this is a comic book that the whole family can share. After I'm done reading it, I will pass it on to my wife Patricia and my son Jason. Believe me, they'll get a kick out of it too!
Paul Dale Roberts
Sacramento, Ca

Thanks, Paul! Glad your family enjoys the antics of Walter and his companions. My aim is to tell a story as well as I can, and try to produce something I myself would like to read. As is probably obvious, I'm a big fan of old fashioned pulp-style adventures, Jules Verne, and horror stories in general. Of course THE HOLLOW EARTH is total escapism, but I like to think that it has its own validity, slight as that might be...

Dear Mark,
Got WK #2 the other day and enjoyed it even more than the first one. Time is being taken to get the reader acquainted with the characters (always a good sign) and the introduction of action at the end was much more effective than the first ish as it was punctuated by the sudden reappearance of Walter after being absent for most of the story. I like your art style. It reminds me of the glory days of the early Carl Barks Duck adventures crossed with the rather funky style of Gilbert Shelton. The story is epic, and the sense of impending adventure is exciting, as are the hints that there is more to Professor Scotty than meets the eye. Excellent job. I anticipate great things for this title. I agree with Mark Lungo, who said that he thought THE HOLLOW EARTH would make a great animated series or film. Imagining Patrick McGoohan as Dr. Foxx's voice makes the character that much more "real" to me. All in all, a fun, entertaining story with solid characters and a great sense of mystery and adventure. Well done on all levels!
Mel Klien
San Francisco, CA

Does that mean I can start hearing McGoohan's voice for Dr. Foxx again? Whew! What a relief!

Dear Mark and Walter,
I missed the first issue of THE, but read some comments about it on the newsgroups and was ready when issue two came out. What a great story! What interesting and believable characters! The writing in this comic is far and away the best I've seen in a "furry" comic book. It's intelligent, suspenseful, and manages to draw the reader into the story without the cloying self-consciousness that mars many of the anthropomorphic titles currently being published. I enjoy such creations as HEPCATS and OMAHA, but a little slice-of-life and overt sexuality goes a long way, and it seems as if everyone has a "message" to extol. Give me some red-blooded adventure mixed with a little cartoon humor anyday! Walter Kitty manages to be both believable and funny, no mean feat. I wish you much success with this comic, and will be very interested to see where this storyline leads.
Never carry a watermelon,
Christie Campbell
Battle Creek, MI

I like fellow Austinite Martin Wagner's HEPCATS too. My only problem with OMAHA is that I like the characters so much that I want to see them involved in non-sexual adventures as well. ...Or am I missing the point?! As for message extolling, please stay tuned for a word from our sponsor...

Well, that's it for this time, folks! Thanks to all those who wrote, both by snailmail and by email. I should take this opportunity to tell you that we're moving to a new house, and dropping our Internet connection for the time being, so all messages should go to Vision Comics, whose address is at the top of this page. All letters will eventually be forwarded to me, and I try to respond to each one personally, so keep 'em comin'!

Next issue, Walter and his friends encounter perilous underground adventure and some surprising revelations on their journey downward. Don't miss THE HOLLOW EARTH #4! Be here! Aloha!

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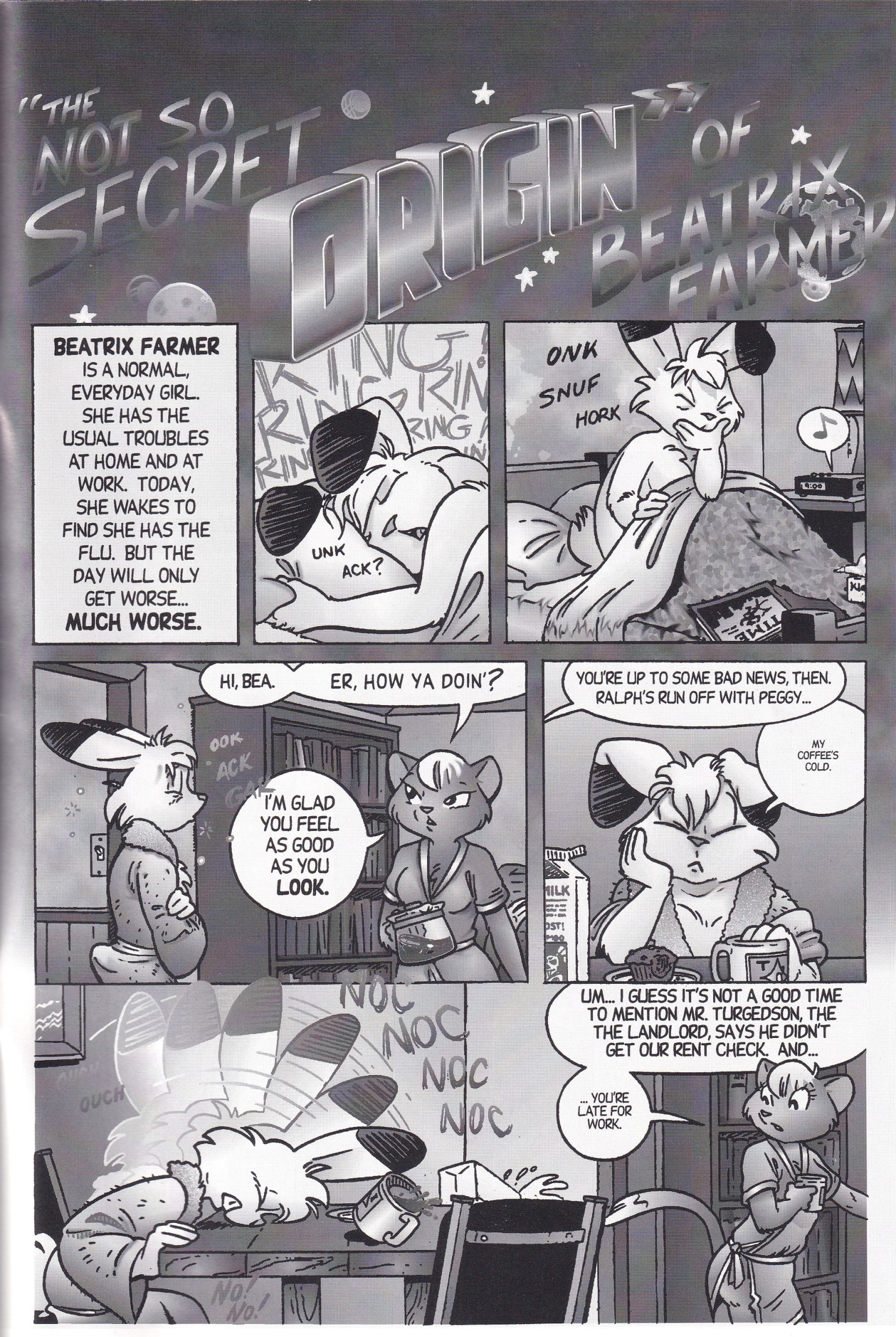
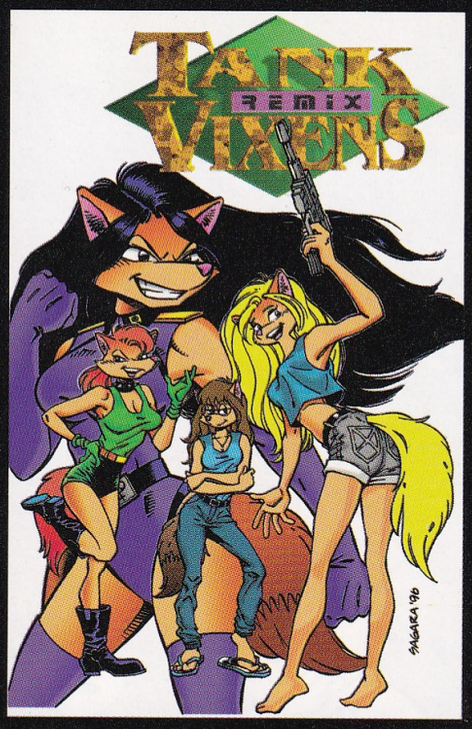
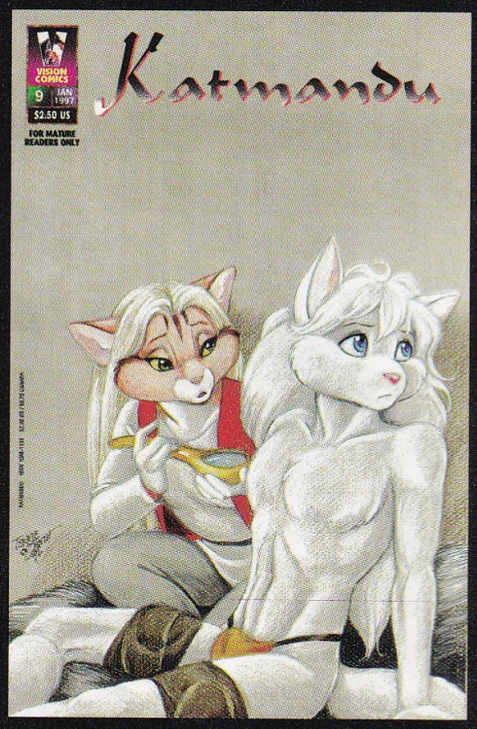
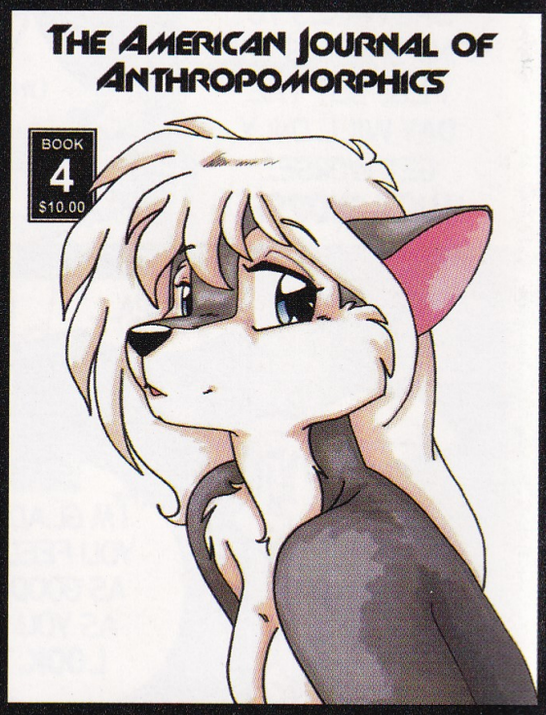
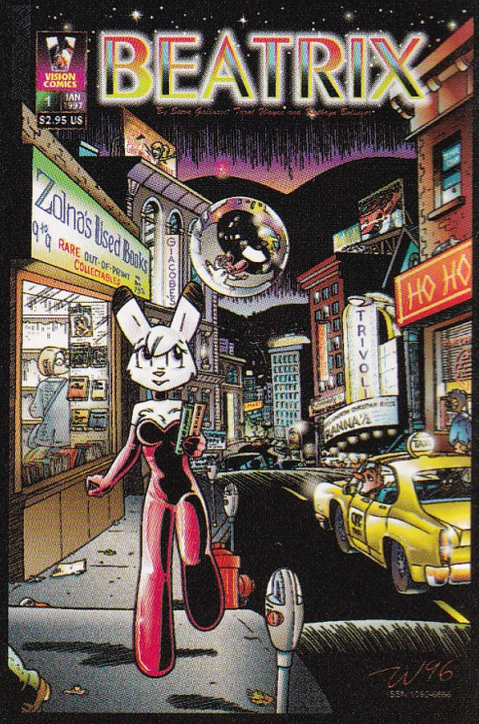

"THE NOT SO SECRET ORIGIN" OF BEATRIX FARMER
BEATRIX FARMER IS A NORMAL, EVERYDAY GIRL. SHE HAS THE USUAL TROUBLES AT HOME AND AT WORK. TODAY, SHE WAKES TO FIND SHE HAS THE FLU. BUT THE DAY WILL ONLY GET WORSE... MUCH WORSE.
RING RING RING
UNK ACK?
ONK SNUF HORK
HI, BEA.
ER, HOW YA DOIN'?
I'M GLAD YOU FEEL AS GOOD AS YOU LOOK.
YOU'RE UP TO SOME BAD NEWS, THEN. RALPH'S RUN OFF WITH PEGGY...
MY COFFEE'S COLD.
UM... I GUESS IT'S NOT A GOOD TIME TO MENTION MR. TURGEDSON, THE THE LANDLORD, SAYS HE DIDN'T GET OUR RENT CHECK. AND...
... YOU'RE LATE FOR WORK.
NOC NOC NOC NOC
OUCH
No! No!





JUST A FEW OF THE LATEST TITLES FROM VISION COMICS

PUTTING THE FUN BACK IN FUNNY ANIMALS!